

# The DC Gazette

*An Alternative Journal*

**The Mean Generation**

**WASHINGTON LAWYERS**



**HITTING THE ALTERNATIVE MEDIA**

**THE CITY: Alley Life Revisited**

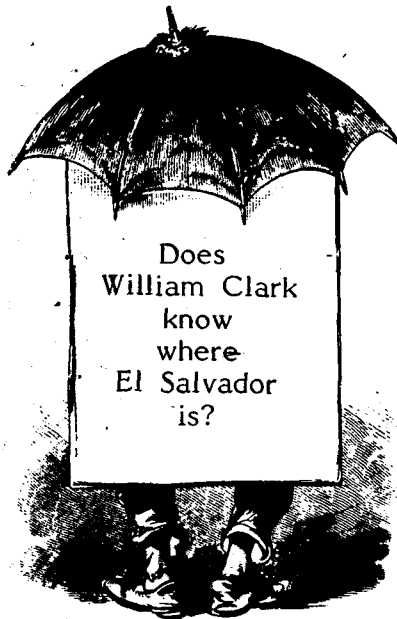
DC Gazette  
1739 Conn. Ave. NW  
DC 20009  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS  
AT NEWS STANDS  
ONE DOLLAR BY MAIL

BULK RATE  
US Postage Paid  
Washington DC  
Permit 43590



# Weather



# Report

THE OWNERS of crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant now want the federal government to pay for the cost of the accident there — a cost expected to reach at least four billion dollars. General Public Utilities, in a 32-page complaint, alleges that government nuclear regulators "induced" the accident by failing to review properly the training programs, operating procedures and equipment at the plant before the mishap occurred.

The British publication *New Scientist* says the GPU request is being greeted with "bemused wonder" by other members of the nuclear industry. The magazine says, "with more than a touch of irony, the utility company, in effect, abandons the nuclear industry's complaint against government regulation, and now insists there should have been more."

In all the transition hoopla you may not have noticed that Senate Judiciary chair Strom Thurmond has created a Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism. The subcommittee, which is a revival of the notorious Internal Security Subcommittee of years past, will be headed by roaring reactionary Jeremiah Denton of Alabama. The body, according to a Thurmond aide, will "monitor the activities of communists and subversives in the US and have jurisdiction over investigations of terrorism." It seems like old times.

The executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, Eva Auchincloss, reports that women's participation in college athletics is up 300 percent over what it was a decade ago.

Representative Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) charges that the government has been misleading the public about the civil strife in El Salvador. She recently visited Central America and toured Salvadoran refugee camps in Honduras, where she interviewed a number of refugees. Mikulski says the refugees all told her stories of "atrocities, cruelty, torture, rape and murders at the hands of El Salvador army troops, but no one made any such accusations against the guerillas."

Says Mikulski, "A civil war is going on because the government of El Salvador is neither popular nor moderate nor elected by the people, all of which we were told it was."

The *Chicago Tribune* reports that fraud, waste and abuse in the Defense Department is costing the country about \$15 billion a year. The Trib says the military wastes money on everything from military-only golf courses to unnecessary expensive computer rentals. It cites the example of the Navy Finance Center in Cleveland which pays \$915,000 rent for two Itel-370 computers which is equivalent to the purchase price of about four of the machines.

Corruption is also said to be a major problem at the Pentagon. A Defense Department fraud inquiry begun last July has resulted in more than 7400 criminal investigations. Just 46 of these cases reportedly involve monetary losses exceeding \$36 million.

Even the usually pro-defense Congressional Republican Study Committee concluded in a recent report that almost half of government waste occurs in the military.

University of Arizona sociologist Charles Brody has done a study of public opinion polls and finds that women tend to be more anti-nuclear than men. The percentage of women against nuclear power runs 15 to 20 points higher than the percentage of men opposed to it. Brody says he believes women are especially sensitive to the issue because they have doubts about the safety of nuclear power for children. Women are more concerned about the effects of radiation, explosions, melt-downs and nuclear accidents. He adds, "One of the things that's fairly interesting is that you don't find these sexual differences with other kinds of environmental issues."

An internal Pentagon reports warns that US weapons systems are becoming so complex that the country may be weakening rather than strengthening its defense capabilities by spending billions of dollars on them. The report, prepared by the Pentagon's evaluation staff, says that many of the most advanced defense systems are so technologically sophisticated that they break down all the time. For example, billions of dollars have been poured into the development of the Navy's F-14-A Tomcat and the Air Force's F-15 Eagle. One F-14 costs about \$36 million and a F-15 costs \$28 million. Yet the planes are so loaded up with electronic gadgets that the F-14s were inoperative 47 percent of the time and the F-15s were out of commission 44% of the time.

Further, complex weapons systems are increasingly vulnerable to electronic countermeasures on the part of the enemy and they require large support bases which are relatively easy to attack.

## DC GAZETTE

THE DC GAZETTE is published ten times a year. Single copies by mail: \$1. Annual subscriptions: \$5. The DC Gazette uses the services of Pacific News Service, Zodiac News Service, College Press Service, Community Press Features, National News Bureau and HerSay News Service.

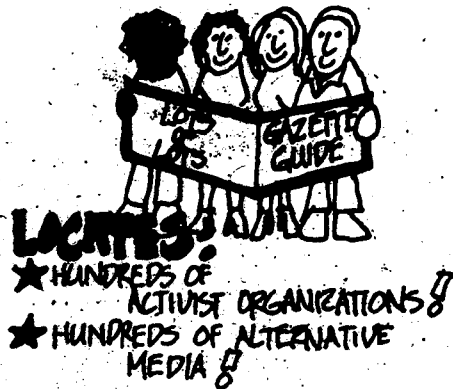
EDITOR: Sam Smith

CONTRIBUTING CORRESPONDENTS:

Paul Krassner, Chuck Stone, Eric Green, Bob Alperin, Josiah X. Swampoodle

CARTOONIST: John Wiebenson

DC GAZETTE  
1739 Conn. Ave. NW  
DC 20009  
202-232-5544



The Gazette's National Action Guide contains hundreds of activist organizations and alternative media. You can obtain this classic guide to where the action is by sending \$2 to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. NW, DC 20009.

## LARGE CO-OP HOUSE IN MT. PLEASANT

Seeks new members. House offers private rooms, full laundry facilities, in-house computer system, wood shop, ping-pong table. Near public transportation, stores, library. Call Carl or Barry, 234-6647

mar

## JEEPS, CARS, TRUCKS

available through government agencies, many sell for under \$200.00. Call 602-941-8014 ext. 6826 for your directory on how to purchase.

# Action Notes

TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: Perspectives on the Iranian Revolution concerns Iranian women, Islamic religious values, arms and the Shah, human rights and international law, etc. \$4.50 from Movement for a New Society, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19143.

THE H-BOMB 'SECRET' SLIDE SHOW is aimed at lifting the shroud of secrecy surrounding the nuclear arms race and giving people the information they need to make intelligent decisions about nuclear weapons. For the 160 slides, script, and cassette tape, send \$75 to the Progressive Foundation, 315 W. Gorham St., Madison, Wisconsin. 53703.

A COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR lists some 4600 groups, plus information on starting various cooperative projects. Co-ops and those "living lightly" can get a copy for \$5; the price for institutions is \$10. Write Cooperative Directory Association, PO Box 4213, Albuquerque NM 87196.

A DIRECTORY OF HOLISTIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS listing health organizations, publications, institutions and resorts, is available for \$2 from David Stry, Box 1228, Cuernavaca, Mexico.

A NUCLEAR FREEZE CONFERENCE has been tentatively scheduled for Mar. 20-22 in Washington, DC. The call asks the US and Soviet Union to immediately stop all further testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles and aircraft designed to deliver nuclear weapons. Sponsored by a coalition of peace groups. Contact: Dana Napastek, Nuclear Freeze Campaign, 201 Mass Ave. NE, #102, DC 20002. (202-842-3010)

GOOD WORKS: A Guide to Social Change Careers describes more than



270 organizations, as well as profiles of activists nationwide, and a listing of networks and printed resources. \$22.50 from the Center for Study of Responsive Law, PO Box 19367, DC 20036.

1980 HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTORY: Most complete listing of human rights organizations in US and Canada. \$11 a copy from Garrett Park Press, Garrett Park, Md. 20766.

EL SALVADOR: A COUNTRY IN CRISIS Slide show with cassette. Rental: \$15 a week. Purchase: \$60. Overview/Latin America, 9 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.



HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNET is a clearinghouse and communications network for international human rights. Activists, scholars, and other people interested in human rights send us their publica-

tions, news of their activities, conferences, teaching materials, etc., which HRI publishes in a journal. HRI has a library (open to the public by appointment) on human rights and publishes several directories of organizations that do human rights work. Write HRI, 1502 Ogden St. NW, DC 20010

MARCH ON HARRISBURG: Seven international trade unions have joined other groups in plans for a march and rally to be held in Harrisburg, Pa. on March 28, the second anniversary of the Three Mile Island accident. The unions include the UAW, United Mine Workers and the International Chemical Workers Union. Info: Greater Harrisburg Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment, 1037 Maclay St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17103 (714-232-0396).

[Thanks to Green Revolution and the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy for some of the information above.]

## Try the Gazette free for awhile

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A FREE TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION to the Gazette, just fill out the form below and we'll send you one.

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE the Gazette, let us know their names and we'll send them a free trial subscription.

DON'T BE BASHFUL. We rely on our readers's referrals to help us grow. We can't afford expensive direct mail campaigns, but you can help us grow.

SORRY, but this offer is not good for present or former subscribers. You can still use the form to subscribe or renew, but be sure to enclose \$5 if you are or have been a subscriber.

DC GAZETTE  
1739 Conn. Ave., NW, DC 20009

Please send me a free trial subscription:

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....ZIP.....

Please send a free trial subscription to:

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....ZIP.....

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....ZIP.....

Include your name and we'll tell them who thought up this great idea.....

Of course, if you already think we're great and would like to see us grow, we would welcome all or part of our regular \$5 subscription price.



The Syntonic Software Company of Houston reports it has sold more than 10,000 copies of an x-rated program for small home computers. Called "Interlude," the program asks a series of personal questions. The replies are punched into the keyboard. "Interlude" then prints out detailed instructions describing what the people gathered around the computer should do -- which range, says the company, "from basic foreplay to light bondage." Syntonic president David Brown notes the computer can be very beneficial when "the man and woman are already feeling warmly toward each other, but do not have an exact format in mind for the evening."

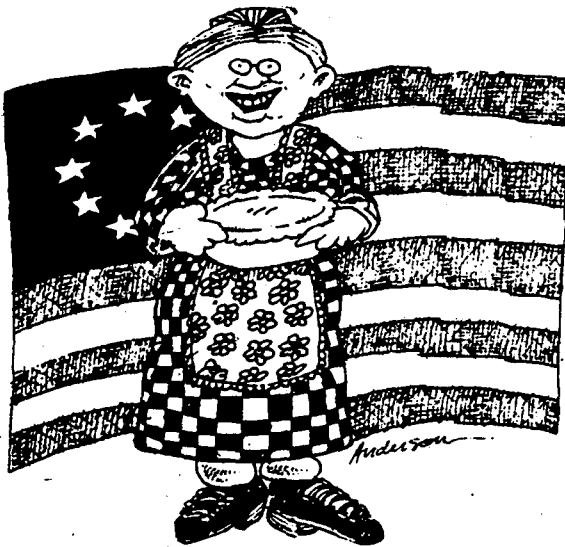
At CBS, supervisors have been warned in a memo to be "alert to the signs of both hard and soft drug abuse." The memo suggested watching for "significant personality changes, forgetfulness or so-called 'spaced-out' interludes, lack of energy, extreme nervousness or irritability or unexplained absences."

Yoko Ono's recent full-age advertisement, titled "In Gratitude," cost more than \$200,000 to have published in the New York Times and other papers around the world.

A Florida company, called "800 Marketing," claims it has developed a special solution into which live plants can be dipped and which will prolong the plants' natural greenery indefinitely. According to the company, even if you forget to water your dipped plant, keep it in a dark closet or insult it, it won't ever keel over and decay. 800 Marketing can be reached at 800-327-3729.

A trailer containing 2000 beer cases was hijacked from a Belleville, Indiana, truck stop recently. The thieves undoubtedly were surprised, however: all 50,000 bottles of beer were empty.

Reporters at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner claim that if a certain key on their computer terminal is pressed, the image of a human hand making a certain rude gesture appears on the screen. Editors get meaner all the time.



## Apple Pie

Memo to Davey Stockman: The US Army Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md., is seeking bids for a professional circus to be used for "dependent youth activities."

Implied and verbal references to sexual intercourse were ten times as num-

erous in prime-time television during the 1978-79 season than just three years earlier. According to an article in a recent issue of the Journal of Communications, mentions of prostitution more than quadrupled and allusions to aggressive sexual contacts tripled.

Meanwhile, another survey finds that ninety percent of all voice-overs on TV commercials are done by males -- even when a product designed for women is being sold and even when all the actors are women.

Psychiatrist-social worker Daniel Morrow has been fired from his job at the Union Hospital in Lynn, Massachusetts. Morrow was charged with "improper conduct" for hugging patients in therapy. Morrow, who had worked eight years at the hospital, believes that hugging is a normal part of being human and reportedly began each group session with a big bear hug for every patient. Hospital director Anthony Raynes opposed the practice saying that Morrow's bear-hugging "is not therapeutic, but an overt acting out. . . Hugging must be done selectively."

## PAUL KRASSNER PREDICTS!

¶ Lily Tomlin will start a halfway house with gratis rooms for shrinking housewives, to be called Sta-Free Mini-Pads.

¶ A special division of the Ku Klux Klan for wealthy members will feature designer sheets.

¶ An Abscam videotape will reveal

Mort Sahl delivering jokes to the Reagan administration in exchange for information on the role of organized crime in the assassination of both Kennedy brothers.

¶ Johnny Carson will reveal that at first he rejected Frank Sinatra's public invitation to emcee the Inaugural Gala, but then he woke up one morning and in his bed was the decapitated head of the NBC peacock.

¶ Of all the books which will emerge out of the returned prisoner-of-war hype, the biggest seller will be The Iranian Hostage 444-Day Weight Loss and New Perspective Diet.

¶ There will be such a plethora of Hostage Exploitation Syndrome that three of the returnees will go back to Iran. One will explain at a press conference that he made his decision when an exhibitionist got arrested in the park with a yellow ribbon tied around his erect penis.

¶ Both Reagan daughters will embarrass the president. Maureen will punch a Biblical scholar on her talk show when he claims that her father is obviously the Beast referred to in Revelations because the letters of Ronald Wilson Reagan amount to 666. Meanwhile, Patti's security guards will accidentally eat her grass brownies. They will get fired for violating the Secret Service rule to never smile on the job.



"WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SAID AGRARIAN REFORM WOULD MEAN A PLOT OF LAND FOR EACH OF US, SOMEHOW I DIDN'T PICTURE THIS...."

¶There will be a new addition to the folklore of drug paraphernalia -- the neutron bong -- a waterpipe which completely destroys smokers but leaves their stash intact.

¶Dean Martin will sober up in order to perform at Joan Kennedy's divorce proceedings.

¶Mount St. Helen's seething crater will be entirely filled with unsold platform shoes.

¶International terrorists will make human rights their number one demand.

¶The Soviet Union will give communism a bad name.

¶Because of the United States military intervention in El Salvador, there will be a world-wide boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

## THE MEDIA

### BOB ALPERIN

ESTIMATES ARE...ESTIMATES. The percentage of Soviet GNP taken by military spending sharply increased in the mid-1970s after a decision to double expenditures for military equipment. The decision was made in Washington. CIA and Defense Department analysts said they had been greatly underestimating Soviet industrial price inflation. Rather than indicating added Soviet military capacity, the increase reflected more cost for the same product. Do those citing the military share of Soviet GNP to justify higher U.S. arms budgets remind us of that?

Other factors are often ignored in making U.S.-USSR comparisons. Do they consider the military budgets for all of NATO vs all of the Warsaw Pact? NATO spends more. Are figures showing declining US defense outlays presented with a caveat that the drop is exaggerated because in the early '70s the Viet Nam war was ending? Do authors remind us what it costs the Soviets to cover their long frontier with hostile China?

These US-Soviet comparisons are not simple calculations, exchange rate in hand, in which the price in rubles is translated into dollars. First, there are complex estimates of how many of maybe thousands of items are purchased by the Soviet military. Then there are estimates as to what the things would cost if made here. But they aren't. Manufacturing specifications vary.

Economist Franklyn Holzman made a brilliant analysis of the assumptions and operations involved in making estimates of Soviet spending. (See *International Security*, Spring, 1980.) Differences in the two nations' labor and

capital costs produce curious effects. If you calculate in dollars, as U.S. government analysts do, the USSR spends more. If you change U.S. dollar costs into rubles, the U.S. is the big spender. (Since we know our own purchases and costs, changing to rubles is the easy way.)

Holzman didn't claim to know who spends more, but the points he raised could fuel a useful debate. It's time to challenge the Washington numbers game.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY. The standards attained by the ABC News program on the hostage negotiations easily outclassed the print media. But one key point was in print months earlier. Based on being present when Iran's government leaders learned that the Shah had fled Panama, *Le Monde's* Eric Rouleau showed that Iran had bargained seriously and had expected a breakthrough. Aside from *The Boston Globe* which used Rouleau's story in its World Press column, major papers seem to have maintained their diet of familiar themes: Iran was irrational, divided, and not bargaining seriously.

WATCHING THE GUARDIAN. Bill Breen, *Post* Ombudsman, devoted two long columns to press coverage of Iran. Ought the media to have avoided all US-Iran issues but the hostage question? Why didn't the press probe the actual effects of the Shah's domestic programs? Why wasn't the past U.S. role in Iran explored? Why so little pre-revolutionary attention to SAVAK or to the stories of Iranian exiles? What part did Kissinger and Rockefeller play in the Shah's entry into the U.S.? Why did

the President admit the Shah? None of these questions bothered Green. Instead, his concerns were: how should the media handle hostage episodes and did we publicize the Iranian side too much?

EX-HOSTAGES AS SABOTEURS. American politicians and media could not admit the hostage-takers were students. Lately, with the media bullish on the anti-terrorist industry, articles often tie the Tehran takeover group to an international terrorist network. The ex-hostages' statements suggest that their captors were Moslem students and not particularly skilled or well-trained for their tasks.

DURESS, ANYONE? Many say abrogate the deal with Iran, it was made under duress. A poll found 76% thought the main reason for the hostages' release was Iran's worry over dealing with Reagan.

THE WASHINGTON POST, UNCOVERED. The *Washington Star* has appointed Percy Quoboza, former editor of a now banned black South African paper, as its U.N. and third world editor. The *Post*, in contrast to its policy on the Jean Harris trial, does not have its own U.N. correspondent.

EVIDENCE, WHY? TV news films showed police beating and kicking the man as he was led off to jail. At the officers' trial, the Philadelphia judge, even before final arguments, gave a directed verdict of acquittal. He explained there had been enough controversy and nothing would be gained by prosecuting the officers. The allegedly beaten man was among 9 members of MOVE (a black back-to-

## LETTERS

Please accept this public apology for my letter to you of some years ago. When I formally resigned as a regular contributor to the DC Gazette, the tone and language of my letter was inappropriate and its logic I now find faulty. I thought then that a collectively-run paper was essential for alternate journalism. But with intimate experience on two of DC's now defunct papers (*Quick-silver Times* and *Colonial Times*, the latter which I helped start), I can now confirm what you wrote then: that the DC Gazette was unique in permitting me as a writer to state my opinions and analyses without any editorial censorship or compromise. Thank you for granting me this freedom.

MALCOLM KOVACS  
Baltimore, Md.

I found an old copy of your paper soaked in the rain, but still a few readable pages. I took it back to my prison cell and was impressed by the parts I could read.

I'm in prison without any outside ties. I would enjoy communicating with your readers. I'm broker than the Ten Commandments so I can't pay your rightful fee for this service.

From nobody important,  
TIM CINQUE CRAYTON  
PO Box 608, Dorm 6-25  
Tehachapi, California 93561





nature group) convicted of third degree murder in the shootout death of a policeman. This judicial initiative, ignored in the Washington press, rated less than 6 column inches in the *New York Times*.

**SECRET TESTIMONY.** Newspaper readers in New York and Washington weren't told, but Johannesburg knew the next day. In testimony before a House committee Export-Import Bank Vice President John Duff broke with U.S. policy and called for recognition of Angola. A Gulf subsidiary oil company president concurred, noting long-run advantages for the U.S. Angola, with an array of potentially exploitable minerals, would be less dependent on communist countries. How did a South African paper scoop top U.S. papers on something happening in Washington? They printed a UPI dispatch!

**THE FOUR OMISSIONS.** Two themes dominate Amercian reporting on Angola: the Cuban presence and the case for aiding Jonas Savimbi's anti-Communist UNITA organization. Four significant kinds of information are usually ignored.

Omitted: Why the Cubans came (to resist a South African invasion) and what they do. For

example, sugar-exporting Cuba has sought to revive Angola's sugar industry, curious behavior if their troops are part of a new imperialism.

Omitted: News of South Africa's support for Savimbi—money, training, perhaps logistics.

Omitted: Evidence contrary to the claims that UNITA controls vast parts of Angola. *The Times* (London) reported that it's possible to travel at night, unescorted, through ethnic areas supposedly supporting Savimbi.

Omitted: The regional effects of Savimbi's activities. His South African helpers gain more than retaliation for Angola's support of SWAPO's fight against South African rule in Namibia/South West Africa. UNITA raids disrupt the Benguela Railroad enough to force Zaire and Zambia to seek other less convenient routes for much of their trade. In 1979, 46% of such traffic went the deep southern route to South Africa's port of East London. This gives Pretoria revenue as well as political and economic leverage with the black states.

Thus, while the U.S. toys with the idea of aiding Savimbi in order to raise the costs to

Angola's marxist government, the effects of what it contemplates could be counterproductive to current U.S. goals in three ways: (1) Increased outside aid to Savimbi is bound to insure the continued presence of the Cubans. (2) It identifies the U.S. closely with South Africa. (3) It adds to the instability of Zaire, Zambia, and the region generally. It's an interesting test of whether the Reagan people are truly practical men rather than ideological purists.

**HEADWATERSGATE.** Last October Lebanon charged that Israel annexed a small part of Lebanon that controls the headwaters of the al-Wazzani River. They claimed a connecting road to Israel was built and military posts set up. The Israeli Embassy denies all, speculating that acts of the (Israeli-backed) Christian militia may have been confused with those of Israel.

Lebanon's protest, apparently too late for same day coverage in the *Post* and *Times*, made the *Star's* late edition. End of story. Why didn't reporters visit the region. Is it off-limits? By whose fiat and why?

If Lebanon is right, a bomb with a random timer will some day further complicate Middle East politics. Real or a dud, why not investigate now, during a period of relative calm?



## THE NEW SUNSHINE JAZZ BAND

Now at Johnny Lange's

EVERY FRIDAY 8:30 -11:30

5149 LEE HIGHWAY, ARLINGTON

NO COVER NO MINIMUM  
241-9658

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:

Die beiden Platten der New Sunshine Jazz Band bieten schon etwas Besonderes... das beide Platten den Scharm wiedergeben, der dieser Musik zu eigen ist. -- der JAZZFREUND

The New Sunshine Jazz Band rags up a storm in delightful fashion -- riety.

The steady sound of 20s jazz emanates from this crazy, anachronistic 10-piece combo -- Tom Zito, WASHINGTON POST

Its music has a raunchy, lazy aura about it that evokes a more peaceful era than the present --T. R. Reid, WASHINGTON STAR

AND FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT....

Available for social, business and political events.  
Call Sam Smith, 232-5544 for information & rates.

A fine feeling for the styles... and more than competent musicianship -- James Goodfriend, STEREO REVIEW

To capture the ragged rhythm that gave this music its name is not an easy task, but one which they accomplish with gusto and enthusiasm. Take my word that it has been done fantastically well -- Paul Affeldt, JAZZ REPORT

The muscians' scholarship is impressive, but unobtrusive... The Sunshine doesn't sound like any other band. -- The MISSISSIPPI RAG

Two of the NSJB's record albums are still available. For a copy of "Old Rags" or "Too Much Mustard," (early jazz and ragtime dances), send \$7 each to the New Sunshine Jazz Band c/o Don Rouse, 5010 N. 11th Street, Arlington, Va. 22205.

# American Journal

David Armstrong

Back in the bad old days of the Palmer Raids in the 1920s, the offices of dissident newspapers were trashed and foreign-born activists, some of them journalists, were deported. In the McCarthy era, a co-editor of the left-leaning *National Guardian* was deported and listener-sponsored radio station KPFA was investigated (and cleared) for alleged communist influence. Only a decade ago, Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew crusaded against liberals in the mass media and dissidents in the underground media, using the FBI to infiltrate news staffs, tap phones, and open mail — all blatant violations of First Amendment freedom of the press.

Could a witch hunt of uppity journalists happen again? The new Reagan administration, busy slashing social programs and whipping up jingoistic fervor, has yet to turn its attention to the media. But conservative activists inspired by last November's elections have trained their sights on alternative media organizations, the better to eventually muffle critical voices.

• On November 5, one day after the election, Howard Phillips, head of the influential Conservative Caucus, called for a cut-off of federal money for National Public Radio and the five-station Pacifica network. Pacifica, which operates stations in Berkeley, Los Angeles, New York, Houston, and Washington, D.C., gets 23 percent of its funding from the feds. The non-commercial stations are frequently critical of establishment politics.

• Even before the election, articles in two conservative journals, *AIM Reports* and *Spotlight*, singled out Pacifica for critical attention, with *AIM Reports* claiming that Pacifica

stations are "notorious for the broadcasting of filth... extreme leftist propaganda."

• Another conservative publication, entitled *Persuasion at Work*, expressed dismay over the success of *Mother Jones*, a muckraking monthly with a circulation of 250,000 and a left-liberal slant, in an issue devoted entirely to attacking that magazine.

• Finally, a conservative group called the National Committee to Restore Internal Security has called for a return of congressional com-

mittees to stalk dissidents, McCarthy-style. Among their proposed targets are *Mother Jones* and Pacific News Service, whose dispatches run in many alternative and college papers.

Like many other long-lived alternative media outlets, PNS has been watched before by the powers that be. A confidential FBI memo, dated December 12, 1971, and secured by this writer under the Freedom of Information Act, described PNS as "an ideal outlet for... pro-

## What kind of message are we sending?

WILLIAM WINDISINGER

In the last days of Jimmy Carter's Administration, a decision was made to send military aid to the government of El Salvador, putting another nail in the coffin of Carter's human rights policy.

El Salvador has been described as the worst human rights violator in Latin America during 1980, and one of the worst in the world. There is a civil war going on in this small Central American country, which has one of the most tightly controlled economies in the world. Fourteen families dominate the economy. Although 60 percent of the total population lives on the land, over half the agricultural land is owned by 2 percent of the landowners.

The trade union movement has never been allowed to function freely. Out of the estimated 10,000 people killed last year, about 1,000 were trade union leaders and activists. None of these crimes has been investigated, let alone solved.

Among the Catholic clergy working with the poor, in the past several years Archbishop Romero, 13 priests and four U.S. women missionaries were murdered.

The current government in El Salvador is not supported by the overwhelming majority of the people. Although there is a civilian president, in fact the country is controlled by the military,

and even the State Department has admitted that most of the murders of civilians are traceable to the official military and policy forces.

Much of the U.S. media coverage of these events has been manipulated by the State Department to develop congressional and public support for current policies. The fiction is promoted that the ruling Salvadoran government is moderate and interested in carrying out social and land reforms. The opposition is labelled as communists, and linked to Cuba. State Department and National Security Council Latin American affairs "experts" seem incapable of learning that moderation cannot exist in a society as polarized as El Salvador's. In fact, most of the moderate leaders have been murdered by right-wing death squads linked to the military.

U.S. leadership in the world will be further weakened if the Reagan Administration tries to prop up this unstable dictatorship. If U.S. military advisers are sent to train the El Salvador army in the use of equipment, we could get bogged down in another Vietnam.

America's traditional strength in the world has been based on its moral leadership as a symbol of freedom, a country founded on the rights of its people to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." What kind of message are we sending to the peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa if we support dictatorships?

William Windisinger is president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

## Supporting Subscriptions

In some European countries, small circulation political and alternative journals keep going with the aid of supporting subscribers who contribute a sum in addition to the normal subscription fee to aid the publication in its work. You will note on your renewal form that there is such a category. We hope you will indicate your support of our efforts by subscribing at the supporting rate of \$15 a year rather than the normal \$5. This will allow us not only to continue as an advocacy journal, but to carry on various activities which, while desirable, are not particularly cost-effective e.g. reaching public officials and groups that might not otherwise subscribe, subsidizing subscriptions for prisoners and low-income persons, and serving as a resource for groups and individuals seeking social change. We hope you will become a supporting subscriber when you renew, which, incidentally, you can do right now by sending us \$15 and a sample of your mailing label. Mail to DC Gazette, 1939 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Thank you.



'Ah, Senor Sam, I promise that it won't be long before my people support me almost as much as you do!'



Chinese communist propaganda." Another internal memo, dated September 11, 1970, noted that PNS frequently released pro-ecology articles, and characterized the environmental movement as "the most sophisticated anti-industrial effort by the Left yet devised."

It may surprise the students and housewives who marched for solar energy and recycled their bottles and tin cans to learn that they were merely dupes of Mao. Yet, this is the kind of thinking that characterizes every wave of political repression. Dissent is equated with treason, and treason, of course, is a crime. Thus, dissent itself becomes a criminal act.

What do the announced targets of the radical right think about all this? Publicly, their stance is one of cautious optimism. Writing in the February/March issue of *Mother Jones*, co-

editor Adam Hochschild allowed that, "Although we cannot claim to be blithely cheerful, we do feel ready for a good fight. Like the doughty woman we're named after, it's what we do best."

The Pacifica stations are sounding a similar note. David Salniker, general manager of KPFA, told the weekly *In These Times* that, "We don't plan to hide from what we consider to be McCarthy-style attacks." Added Salniker, "We've weathered the years of McCarthy and Nixon, and we can weather this administration as well."

Hopefully so. The number of journalists willing to question the status quo is already small. One reason for that is the ever-increasing monopolization of ownership in the mass media by powerful corporations of the type

courted by the Reagan administration—which, in a neat feat of political logic, claims to be for "free enterprise." Kangaroo courts for dissenting journalists could further reduce diversity, putting some barely-solvent independent media out of existence and having a chilling effect on others.

Ronald Reagan has not, so far, endorsed the threatened prosecution of the alternative media, but the conservative campaign is clearly being mounted in hopes of snaring his support. That Reagan recently removed the White House portrait of Thomas Jefferson, the historic champion of the First Amendment, and replaced it with one of Calvin Coolidge, the stone-faced exemplar of know nothingism, does not bode well for a free press.

## INNOCENT BYSTANDER

ARTHUR HOPPE

### THE FORGOTTEN AMERICANS

If the kiddies will kindly turn to the financial pages, we grown-ups can discuss a subject so fraught with social significance that we must temporarily, if reluctantly, cast aside the last modicum of decorum.

I speak, of course, of the right to life.

The good Right to Life folks, as you know, are pushing a constitutional amendment that would ban not only abortions, but "morning-after pills" and intrauterine devices on the grounds that these methods do away with the egg after it has been fertilized.

And while a fertilized egg is certainly entitled to its full constitutional rights, what about those little fellows who do the fertilizing? What about, in a word, the spermatozoa?

We members of The Fair Play for Spermatozoa Committee would like to point out that spermatazoa are magnificently alive, definitely human and, in this country, unquestionably American.

It is true that their numbers are legion, their lives all too brief and their mission virtually impossible. Yet their dedication, their determination, their indomitable grit should be held aloft as true Americanism at its very finest.

Consider, if you will, the apocryphal history of but one of these unborn countrymen of ours. Let us, for the sake of identification, call him Harold.

For his first 90 days, Harold lies idly about, growing and gathering strength. Then, looking like a cuddly tadpole, he is deemed mature enough to be ready for The Quest. His goal: to seek out the egg, who has descended from her ovarian bower and is demurely hiding in the folds of the fallopian tube, awaiting a swain.

With 80 million or so of his fellows, Harold gamely sets forth on a journey far more hazardous than faced by the heroes of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

His little tail flailing away, he struggles onward, ever onward. One by one, to the left and right of him, his companions collapse from exhaustion. At last, he and he alone wins through to his soulmate. They are joined. And Harold, if the amendment passes, will finally earn his constitutional rights as an American.

A heartwarming story, you say. *But that's not the way it is.*

All too often in these decadent times, no sooner has Harold set forth on The Quest than he and his companions butt their tiny heads against an impenetrable elastic barrier. They rebound against it time and time again until, at last, they expire from sheer frustration.

Or, worse, they find their way clear. With hopes high, they dash forward—and plunge blindly into a sea of noxious, lethal poisons.

Or, most cruel of all, the Pill or the rhythm

method may be involved. Then it is that Harold struggles ever onward, overcoming insuperable odds, winning through in the end to the silken fallopian folds where he believes his beloved awaits—only to find that no one's home. Is it any wonder he succumbs to a broken heart?

Some masculinists argue that they have the right to do what they wish with their own spermatozoa. "Keep your laws off our bodies," they say.

But surely an end must be put to the vicious practice of spermatocide. If a fertilized egg can be protected by the Constitution, surely these doughty little battlers also deserve the fruits of American citizenship.

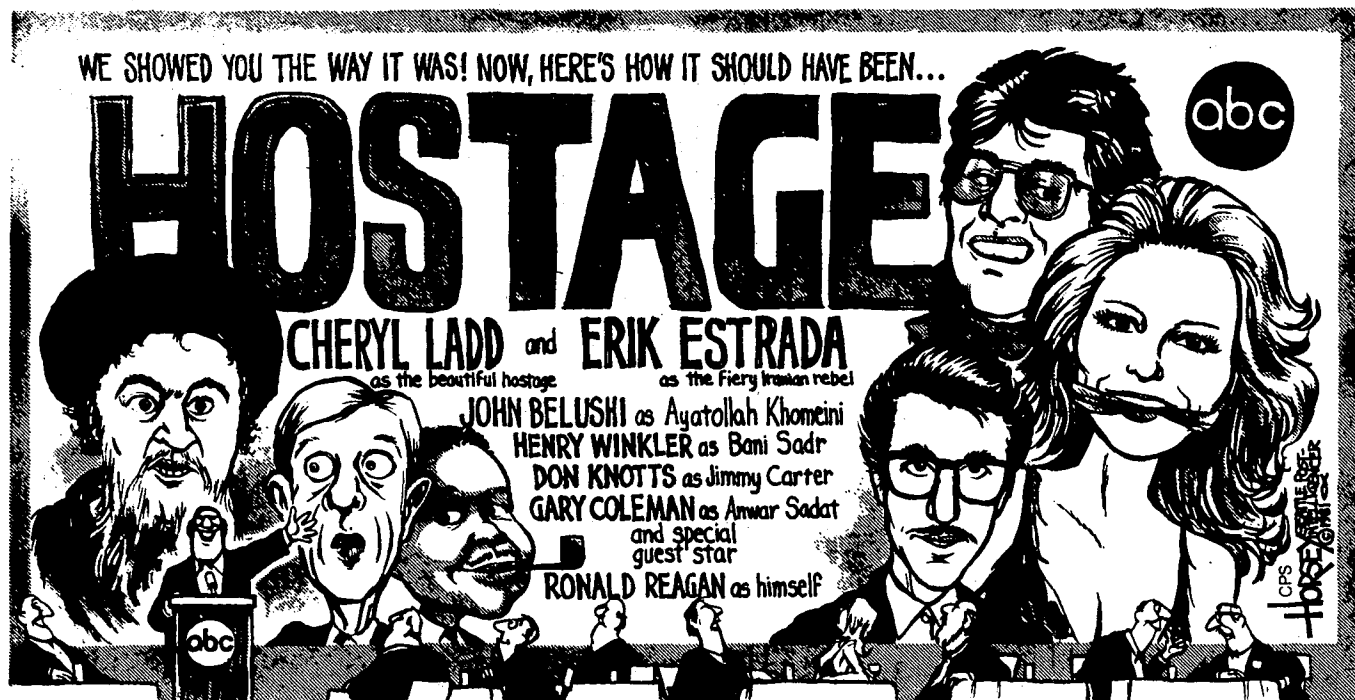
To be sure, even with citizenship, more American lives would still be wasted in every Quest than were lost in the entire war of 1812. But as the motto of our committee says, "Give Every Spermatozoa a Chance!"

### SIR RONALD'S BATTLE

All right, kiddies. Climb up on Daddy's lap, keep your fingers out of Daddy's martini and Daddy will tell you one more bedtime story about Sir Ronald of Holyrood.

How about Sir Ronald's very first battle? Ooo, it's scary! Try not to squeal in Daddy's ear.

Well, it was a long, long, long time ago. It



"FRIENDS AND AFFILIATES, LET'S KEEP A GOOD THING GOING..."



was so long ago, in fact, that Sir Ronald was still in the prime of late middle age. Accompanied by his faithful squire, Sancho Nofziger, Sir Ronald had ventured into The Tangled Thicket in order to save his beloved people of The Golden State of the West.

The two companions rounded a bend in the path and there before them in the murky gloom squatted the most horrendous beast you can possibly imagine.

It had 206 heads, each more ugly than the rest. Convoluted appendages equipped with eagerly slurping suckers sprouted from all over its huge and bloated body, which was covered with mysterious lumps, impenetrable growths and useless appendices. And the whole monstrous hulk rested on millions of footnotes so tiny as to be barely discernible to the naked eye.

"Hola, Sancho," said Sir Ronald frowning, "what strange manner of creature is this?"

"Flee, Sire, flee!" cried Sancho, turning pale. "It is a Budget!"

"And what, pray tell," asked Sir Ronald, "is a Budget?"

"It is an evil nemesis that fattens itself on the blood of your beloved people, said Sancho, "and then topples over and squashes them."

"A worthy foe," said Sir Ronald resolutely. But as he drew his famed Swinging Sword, an odd thing happened. The air was filled with piteous moans and groans. "What's this, varlet?" demanded Sir Ronald. "I thought you said my beloved people loathed the Budget."

"Oh, all loathe the Budget, Sire," said Sancho. "But each loves some small part of it and begs that part be spared."

"Cut, squeeze, trim and no quarter," said Sir Ronald. And shouting his battle cry—"For

Decency, for Purity, and for Just Plain Goodness!"—he attacked the Budget, chopping and lopping, hacking and whacking.

But this being a fairy tale, a wondrous thing happened: The more Sir Ronald chopped and whacked, the bigger the Budget grew—until after eight years of battle, it was the biggest Budget the Golden State had ever seen.

But the people applauded his energy. So the story has a happy ending.

What's Sir Ronald doing now? Well, kiddies, you may not believe this, but he captured The Holy White House from the dread Jiminy Gerbil and he's vowed to attack the Great Granddaddy of All Budgets, the biggest Budget in the whole wide world.

Don't cry, kiddies. Sir Ronald will be all right. Let's worry about Daddy. Pour Daddy another martini and get to bed.

(Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1981)

## OUTLYING PRECINCTS

SAM SMITH

### THE MEAN GENERATION

The crucial question of the moment is whether God is a Reaganite. I became confused about this during the Inauguration as I tried to sort out the relative roles in the new administration of Edwin Meese, the Father Almighty and Donny Osmond. I gather from certain information that He may be using Interior Secretary Watt as the conduit for his will. Watt, apparently the first airport flower-seller to reach cabinet rank, reputedly has an organization chart that leads directly from a box marked "God" to another labelled "Watt." He is said to bounce into closets from time to time during meetings for a personal word with the master and has been known to climax the dismissal of personnel with a recommendation that they join him in prayer.

Under the strange standards of American journalism, such insights into a member of the cabinet are to be found in gossip columns, not on the news page. If Watt were 25 years younger, his parents would have Ted Patrick hot on his trail, but since he is fully grown and powerful and a lawyer no one of any journalistic note pays any attention. He is one more beneficiary of the press's tendency to normalize the absurd -- the same tendency which has led the press to its acceptance of the notion that you can't have human rights without terrorism, that the National Endowment for the Arts and public broadcasting are prime causes of inflation and that no people will revolt against their government without Soviet aid funneled through Cuba.

There is nothing new with the media parroting such state-originated

cliches. They perform the same favor for every administration, for every politician or group that demonstrates sufficient power. One of the reasons we stayed in Vietnam so long was because few reporters could conceive of the truth coming from a source other than one of power. Only when the anti-war movement became powerful was its opinion taken seriously. The media will accept any fact or non-fact as long as it has popular support. Thus today the Reagan-supported corporate raid on the gross national product is being treated as a profound economic truth. One can reasonably expect that in a few months, as the opposition pulls itself together, the press will begin to notice again the heterogeneous nature of economics and politics. It will occur, no doubt, after Reagan has incurred some humiliating defeat and after some clever opposition propagandist comes up with a counter-cliche as amenable to media comprehension as, say, the Laffer Curve.

Meanwhile, we must face the coming weeks inundated with assurances of the brilliance of the Reagan strategy, particularly that of its budget director, Davey Stockman -- with nary a hint that what Stockman is up to could be accomplished by any American with an average math SAT, a Canon P10-D calculator and a sufficiently churlish personality.

Meanwhile, as well, we must live with the implicit suggestion that God likes the Reagan budget. As a matter of faith, I believe that the Lord has not taken a position in the matter and that, sooner or later, his fundamental agnosticism about American politics will be revealed. I am given encouragement in this belief by no less a theologian than the Rev. Billy Graham, who admits that he once used to

equate "the Kingdom of God with the American way of life." That was back in the days when Adlai Stevenson said, "I can believe in God, I just can't believe in Billy Graham." Now, the good reverend says, "Liberals organized in the 60s and conservatives certainly have a right to organize in the 80s., but it would disturb me if there was a wedding between the religious fundamentalists and the political right. The hard right has no interest in religion except to manipulate it."



ARE YOU FRUSTRATED BY THE DECENT PRESS?

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX?

The Alternative Press Index is the only complete index to periodicals that chronicle social change in the U.S. and around the world. Published quarterly, the API is a comprehensive guide to over 150 alternative and radical newspapers, magazines, and journals.

-Anarchism	-Labor Movement
-Alternative Energy	-Prisoners Rights
-Alternative Culture	-Radical Education
-Black Movement	-Radical Health
-Feminism	-Radical Science
-Liberation Movements	-Socialism

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Per Volume: \$80/Library \$25/Mvt. Grps.  
 Alternative Press Center, Box 7229A  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Based on past experience, however, I suppose we have to deal with the possibility that Graham is wrong. In such a case we are faced with the awful prospect of a God that will make the Old Testament seem like a disco party -- unless, of course, one is in the upper tax brackets or a member of the Fortune 500. The god of Reagan, Stockman, Watt et al is not merely vengeful; he has, from all appearances, converted heaven into an exclusive condominium with entry determined not only by one's faithfulness but one's assets. The rest of the nation -- guilty of waste, fraud and low productivity, will be assigned to a purgatory that, I gather, vaguely resembles Detroit immediately after the riots.

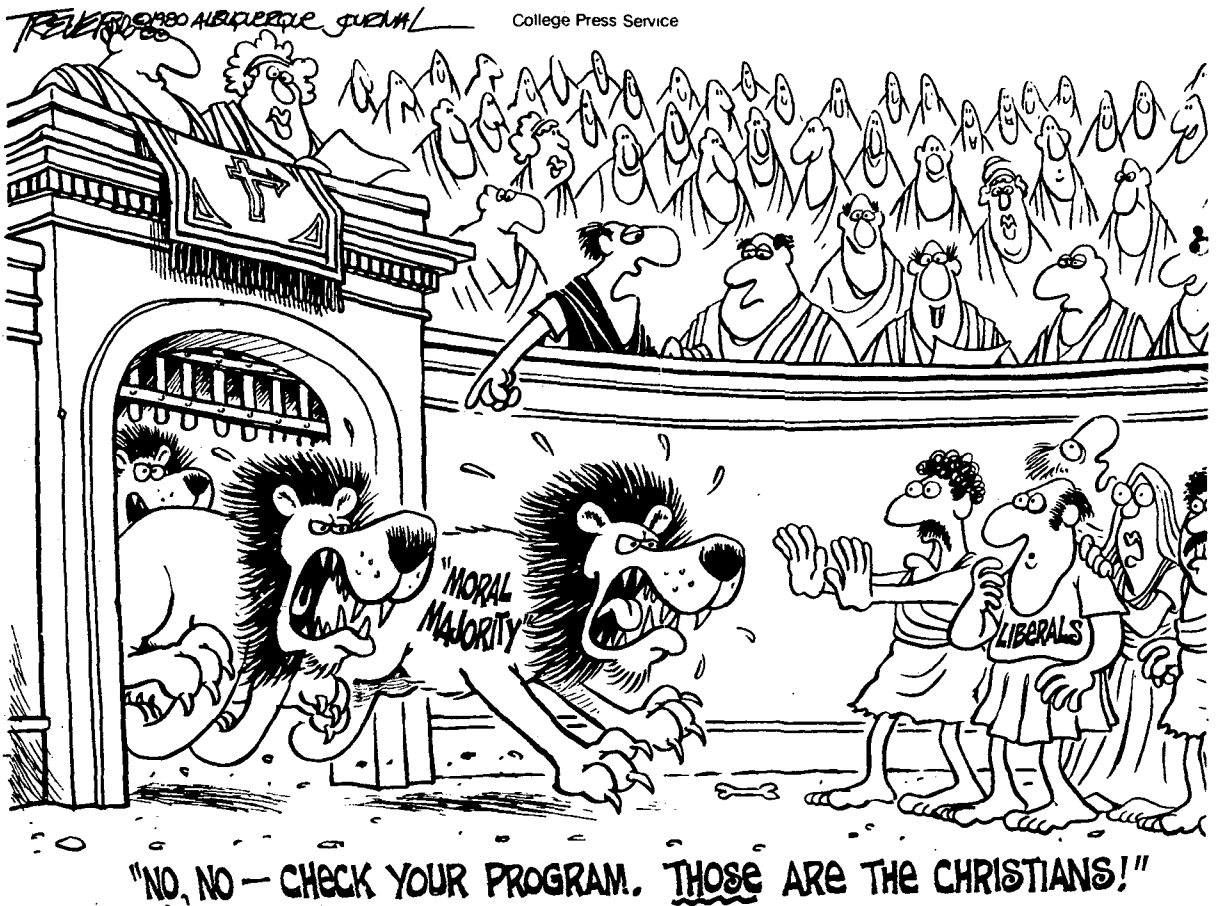
In short, no more Mr. Nice Guy for the Father Almighty. Like his new prophets at the White House and on Capitol Hill, he believes in salvation not in terms of mass redemption, but as an act of economic triage.

For the moment the theology benefits from an ironic confluence of two strains of American thought. One strain reflects the explicit support for Reaganism -- the romantic notion of the beneficiaries of five decades of social welfarism that they could have done even better without any help. The other strain is younger, and reflects a generation committed to self-fulfillment devoid of such troublesome concepts as social compact, community, mutual dependency and so forth. The old wanting government off their backs and the young wanting society off theirs have jointly created the social environment in which the theology of Reaganism flourishes. It was only a step from the Me Generation to the Mean Generation.

It was not merely the Reaganites who were into the social parsimony of the seventies. Just check out the favorite hip movies of the past decade; the rationalization of selfishness was a common theme of the land.

One reason, however, that the young give up on the notion of being free to be you and me is that, sooner or later, people take advantage of the situation. The character who allegedly crashes for a night but is still with you three months later and finally leaves with the better part of your stereo. The transcendental hustlers who use the gullible's faith as a form of currency. The emotional sump pumps who drain the spirit. And so forth.

What we are seeing in the meanies who have taken over Washington is aged version of the same phenomenon. The warning signs are clear: they have been with us for weeks and not once have they offered to do the dishes. Aside from promising more tanks and less taxes and inflation, you would be hard-pressed to discover how they plan to help around the house of state. Every social program and every worthy federal project has been reduced by the Reagan administration to the status of a clause parenthetical to saving us money. It seems against its grain to even expend a whole sentence talking about anything else. If cutting the budget is all there is to government, then we should have just hired



a good accounting firm to replace the anachronism of the presidency, and have been done with it.

Of course, not even Ronald Reagan believes that's all there is to government -- which is why so many of his budget alterations have more to do with changing ideology than eliminating deficits. If this were not the case we would see tobacco subsidies being slashed as well as school lunches. We would hear some discussion of a simple 2% across-the-board cut, as proposed by Governor Carey of New York and which he claims would produce even greater savings. And some mild interest would be paid to ending waste and fraud in the Defense Department, the East Baltimore Street of governmental sin.

What Reagan is really about is what all politicians are about -- deciding who gets what from whom. Reagan, like other politicians, is not engaged in the elimination of oppression, waste and abused prerogatives, but in their redistribution. To accomplish this the semantics change. Adequate health care is a subsidy, accelerated depreciation is an incentive.

(This, in fact, is a rather nice example. Note that the Reaganites believe in accelerated depreciation which is actually a way of treating capital expenditures more like operating costs while they bitterly oppose any movement towards treating capital income (i.e. capital gains) more like operating income. Thus they win both ways.)

So the rich get incentives and the poor learn fiscal responsibility, but when it's all over and done with, what you've actually got is a good old-fashion regressive redistribution of power and money.

If Reagan was really interested in anything more than this, you would have heard of some of his plans to actually empower localities to do the things that the federal government no longer will. In fact, one of the first victims of Reagan's new "efficiency" was HUD's extremely useful Office of Neighborhoods and Voluntary Associ-

ations. Reagan to date has not shown the slightest interest in making neighborhoods more powerful. His is a wierd form of decentralism.

Sooner or later people will catch on to the shill. They will realize that even a balanced budget has to do something and that they have a lot of things that need to be done. And when they realize this, the theology of Reaganism will be in trouble.

It has happened before. Just last year, visitors to Madame Tussaud's wax museum listed Ayatollah Khomeini as the person they most feared and hated, followed by Idi Amin and Adolph Hitler. This year, Hitler was in first place, Amin had dropped to third place and Khomeini to fourth. In second place: Ronald Reagan's partner in the politics of stinginess: Margaret Thatcher.

#### DISSENT ON THE BACK PAGES

The Reaganistas are not only doing a pretty good job of eliminating items of socially redeeming value from the budget, they are hacking away at standard English meaning as well. If you search hard enough in your local paper, however, you will occasionally find evidence that their description of our current economic condition and prescription for its cure is a tad wobbly. Even such a certified non-radical as William Safire felt compelled to point out that "considering all the previously scheduled increases in taxes in the coming year, most taxpayers will be paying more taxes, not less."

Ex-Carterite Richard Cooper brings up further disagreeable facts: "In 1960, the federal government purchased about 11 percent of the economy's total output; by 1980, this portion had dropped well below 8 percent." The real growth in government has been at the state and local level. In 1960 federal purchases exceeded total state and local purchases, but by 1980, state and local purchases were nearly twice federal purchases.



What has grown at the federal level has been transfer payments -- grants to states and localities to help them finance their spending, interest on the public debt, grants to individuals for such programs as Medicaid and food stamps and Social Security. These payments, say Cooper, have gone up 50 percent more rapidly than the economy, and nearly half of the increase has come from Social Security hikes. Cooper adds that only in Japan and Canada does the central government purchase a lower share of the GNP.

Then we have Dr. Sandra Shaber of Chase Econometrics who argues that an analysis of living standards since 1960 finds the average American's real disposable income -- after taxes and allowing for inflation -- has more than doubled over the past 20 years.

### FORGETTING INTEREST RATES

Another void in the current discussion is the remarkable absence of talk about interest rates and the role the Federal Reserve Board has played in our economic difficulties. Again, one must roam the business pages or the back streets of politics to find serious suggestions that there may be more to all this than runaway spending by OSHA. It seems worth considering the inflationary and economic impacts of having your Reagan-donated tax cut more than eaten up by the increased interest rate on your home mortgage, but the media is preoccupied with trying to understand supply-siding (turning a noun into a verb is the press's first step in the canonization of an idea) and apparently doesn't have time for such esoteria.

So you may have missed Robert Samuelson writing that "For all the squirming over tax and spending cuts, interest rates may determine where the economy moves in the next few years." Says Samuelson, high interest rates "almost always hurt construction disproportionately," can hurt savings associations seriously and damage America's trade position. And he points to one reason why the affluent aren't screaming about the cost of credit: interest rates are deductible on taxes and thus, for high bracket individuals, can be brought down, in real terms, below the rate of inflation.

We also have a well-buried report from the Brookings Institution which attacks the Federal Reserve Board's attempt to control credit by letting interest rates run wild. There is even a freshman, who wants to do something about it. Byron Dorgan, the former tax commissioner of North Dakota, has introduced a bill that would provide for the removal of the chairman of the FRB upon a 60% vote of the members of both houses of Congress. Dorgan charges that "the actions of the Federal Reserve Board have caused dramatic increases in small business failures, scorched the housing and automobile industries, heightened inflation and generally made life worse

for most Americans. While the rest of the American people are attempting to dampen the raging fires of inflation, Mr. Volker and the money brokers are carrying the wood."

Dorgan notes that over 1600 auto dealers have been forced to close, hundreds of thousands of auto-related workers have been laid off, thirty percent of the homebuilders in the country went out of business in the last two years, 757,000 building trades workers were tossed out on the street and family farmers are paying 45 percent more in interest charges this year than they were last.

"If policies of the Federal Reserve System were truly 'wringing inflation out of the economy,' to cite the bankers' favorite metaphor, that would be one thing," says Dorgan. "But in practice, the Volker-Fed high interest rates have done just the opposite.

They have helped wrap inflation snugly into the economy. High interest rates have become part of the price of cars, houses, tractors and washing machines. Worse, high interest rates mean the Treasury has to shell out more to finance deficits. These deficits, at the same time, grow larger, because, when Volker & Company throw their wet blanket on the US economy, tax receipts go slack. Then Treasury borrows more, at the high interest rates, to plug the gap, and the downward spiral of self-defeating economic policy spins out. It's time for us to stop entrusting a full half of the nation's economic policy to an insulated clique of big bankers and money brokers called the Federal Reserve System."

This sort of talk is no way to get ahead in today's Washington. When the president devotes only three sentences out of an entire economic speech of thirty minutes to matters even remotely connected to interest rates, one can't expect someone of Dorgan's views to be taken seriously. The press has been almost totally bamboozled by the economic and governmental oligarchies into considering the matter, at best, tangential. In fact, the failure to deal with interest rates may be the most fraudulent and

deceptive part of Reagan's entire economic program. And it is in the sad nature of things these days, that this should concern only a few, like freshman congressmen. It doesn't take any great brilliance. After all, as far back as 1913, when the Federal Reserve Act was under consideration, one public figure argued, "The control of the system of banking and off [issuing money] must be public, not private... It must be vested in the Government itself so that the banks may be the instruments, not the masters of individual initiative and enterprise."

Those weren't the words of William Jennings Bryan or some pre-assembly line socialist. They were said by the president, Woodrow Wilson.

### GREAT THOUGHTS OF WESTERN MAN

It would be easier to counter Ronald Reagan's criticism of the federal bureaucracy if erstwhile members of it, like Ben Heineman and Curtis Hessler, would stop writing things like the following (found in their new book Memorandum for the President: A Strategic Approach to Domestic Affairs in the 1980s):

"Policy implementation is a sphere of action with important potential for the domestic presidency."

And David Wood of the Washington Star reported last month that "Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said yesterday that while he believes the government of El Salvador is as repressive and unpopular as was the Saigon government during the Vietnam war, it must nonetheless be supported against communist aggression." In international affairs as well, it would appear, policy implementation is an important sphere of action.

For my part I hold to my previously stated position that this country should go to the defense of no nation a majority of the American people can't find on the map. This would assure at least a generation of peace.

## CHUCK STONE

### WHO KILLED PUBLIC TV?

Unlike Mark Twain's premature demise, news of public television's death is not "greatly exaggerated." The patient is still breathing, but it's just a matter of time before the 200 public television stations around the country will be broadcasting test patterns from the city morgue.

A few years from now, when the question, who killed public TV?, is asked, the line of suspects will be longer than that at the supermarket's "10 items or less" counter.

"December 10, 1980 may be remembered as the day public television died -- or at

least was fatally wounded," recently wrote columnist Rhicard Reeves. That was the day the British Broadcasting Corporation signed a 10-year contract with RCTV, a division of Radio City Music Hall, giving that company first-run rights to all of its programming goodies. That exclusive contract also deprived public television of one of its entertainment backbones.

"Is public television nearly dead?" asked Peter Caranicas in a recent Saturday Review. Caranicas describes "talk of a rapidly approaching doomsday for public television. The suddenly looming menace: cable tv."

If Caranicas's perception is accurate -- and industry experts around the country say it is -- then, public TV was not 'fatally wounded' on Reeves's date of Dec. 10 but six months earlier on June 1. That was the day 41-year-old Robert Edward Turner pulled the switch in Atlanta, Ga., to beam his 24-hour-a-day Cable News Network into 2.2 million cable TV sets around the country. The outrageous business genius, 'Terrible Ted,' is betting \$100 million of his sports teams-WTBS-billboard company-yachtsman fortune that (a) there's a national lust for news and (b) he can satiate it.

Given his past Horatio Alger successes against darker odds, Turner the Burner probably will succeed. But his gamble's outcome is not so important as the revolutionary force he has unleashed in television. He is opening up new frontiers for cable television's 16 million homes -- twice as many as in 1973.

Ten years from now, predicts the New York Times's Tony Schwartz, half of all homes with television will have cable. In 20 years the whole country will be cabled. When that happens, who needs public television?

Public television simply cannot stand up to the cheaper, easy-to-receive wide variety of entertainment from such cable TV merchandisers as Home Box Office, the all-sports ESPN network and -- unkindest cut of all -- special cultural programs on which the Public Broadcasting Service has long prided its snobbish self.

If you need another date for public television's coffin, nail in Dec. 8, 1980. That was two days before the RCTV-BBC contract was signed. Bravo Programming sent a cable TV signal around the country with an 80th birthday salute to composer Aaron Copeland, with Leonard Bernstein in Carnegie Hall. The Denver-based Bravo Programming president, Jerry Maglio, has already showcased by satellite a whole series of PBS-type cultural programs from concerts and operas to plays and talk shows. The programs are offered for only a small fee.

Another problem for public television will be the role of government subsidies under an administration committed to "getting government out of our pocketbooks" by reducing government spending. In 1969, the government-subsidized Corporation for Public Broadcasting received \$5 million. For fiscal '81 government appropriations had increased 32 times to \$162 million.

That \$162 million is distributed as direct support of television and radio, community service grants, productions, a Program Fund and support of PBS and National Public Radio. NPR receives about one-fourth of the amount CPB allocates to public television, yet NPR's programs are classier, more creative and more relevant than PBS's. "Public television, most of it, has always been second-rate," writes Reeves.

(Other critics would add another negative dimension: racist. Although blacks and hispanics comprise 25 percent of the nation's population, PBS's programming and CPB's employment and fundings do not reflect those demographics. Both CPB and PBS should be denied government sub-

sidies when major segments of the population are ignored in public affairs programming.)

As cable television expands in diversity, availability and appeal, it will hasten the decline and fall of public television. Public television's demise is not greatly exaggerated. The electronic dinosaur is merely waiting for the funeral services to begin.

[Philadelphia Daily News]



During the peak seven years of the Vietnam War, more than 40,000 American soldiers were killed in action. But during that same period, more than 50,000 American civilians died right here at home -- murdered with handguns.

Someone is murdered with a handgun every 50 minutes. By this time tomorrow, 29 more Americans will have been murdered in handgun fire.

According to the FBI, 10,728 Americans were murdered with handguns in 1979. Seventy-six (72%) of the law enforcement officers killed in 1979 were slain with handguns.

Handguns were used in 50% of the murders in 1979 -- 2½ times as frequently as any other weapon.

During the next 12 months, there will be over 250,000 more people victimized with handguns.

One in five Americans has access to a handgun.

One in nine Americans has already been threatened or attacked by someone wielding a handgun.

There are an estimated 55 million handguns in civilian hands today.

Each year the handgun industry pumps an additional two million handguns into circulation. At the current rates of production, there will be 100 million handguns in America by the year 2000.

A new handgun is sold every 13 seconds.

#### Gallup Poll released February 1980:

75% favor their state having a law that would require persons who carry a gun outside their homes to have a license. 65% of gun owners favored this as well.

59% felt that the laws governing the sale of handguns should be made more strict. Only 6% wanted current gun laws relaxed.

#### Harris Poll released August 1979:

78% favor a federal law requiring that all handguns be registered by federal authorities.

72% favor a federal law which controls the sale of guns, such as making all persons register all gun purchases, no matter where the purchases are made.

-Handgun Control Inc., 810 18th St. NW, DC 20006



# THE FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT: WASHINGTON LAWYERS

**BRYCE NELSON**

As the Washington lawyer remembers the incident, he was sitting figuratively at the feet of super-lawyer Clark M. Clifford some years back when he suddenly found himself blurting out the greatest compliment he could pay. "Mr. Clifford," he told the long-time adviser to presidents and king of the Washington legal establishment, "you have set a standard that all us young lawyers aspire to. You have taught us it's possible to think like a Democrat and live like a Republican."

In recalling the episode, the lawyer-storyteller was trying to point out a little-recognized fact of life in the capital:

Given the huge financial stakes that can ride on even the tiniest provision of a federal law or regulation, Washington lawyers are not only among the wealthiest in the world but are also among the most important players in the game of determining national policy.

The decisions they influence affect the kind of television programs people watch, the air they breathe, the food and drugs available to them, the cost of the gasoline they burn and the taxes they pay. What is more, businessmen and others are more than happy to pay for the skilled representation, even though many have seen their companies' legal fees quadruple in recent years.

"Legal fees are only a tiny part of what's at stake financially in our relationship with the federal government," one such client said recently. "We'd be penny-wise but pound foolish if we tried to save on getting good representation in Washington."

Similar financial realities work to assure an endless supply of prime legal talent here. The archetypical "Washington lawyer" — after serving a relatively well-paid apprenticeship in Congress or the executive branch and putting in a few years establishing himself with a private law firm — can expect to make \$100,000 to \$400,000 a year and enjoy foreign vacations, tennis and swim clubs, private schools for his children and other perquisites of life at the top.

Indeed, Washington lawyers have become "the fourth branch of government," according to Circuit Court Judge Abner J. Mikva, a former Illinois congressman who has seen them operate from both the judicial and legislative perspectives.

As new government agencies have mushroomed and torrents of new federal laws and regulations have poured forth in the last few years, the desire of corporations for legal representation also has grown — with dramatic consequences for the practice of law in Washington:

- The number of lawyers has increased precipitously, growing by more than 3,000 annually. There are now 33,000 members of the District of Columbia Bar, most of them in private practice. There were only 10,000 in 1972, says the bar's executive director, David Ellwanger.

By comparison, there are 24,796 licensed lawyers in Los Angeles County, serving a population more than three times as large as that of Washington. "Everybody says there are more lawyers per square inch in Washington than anywhere else and it's true," Ellwanger says.

- Lawyers' incomes and fees have risen rapidly. Local lawyers say that a law school graduate can start at about \$35,000 annually in a major firm. New junior partners in their mid-30s make more than \$100,000 and senior partners more than \$300,000. Partners in large firms bill for their services at rates ranging from \$100 to \$350 an hour. Others charge too much to be paid by mere hourly fees.

Envious attorneys in other cities tend to think there is "gold in the streets of Washington," says Alan Lobel, a Boston attorney. And lawyers here generally agree that many

Washington attorneys make a lot more than lawyers in most other cities. The cash-rich atmosphere sometimes resembles a mining boom town, and out-of-town firms have jumped into the game by opening offices here. Only a few had branches in the early 1970s. Now, by one estimate, more than 175 have established offices in the capital to better serve clients with federal business and to prevent Washington firms from taking away their work.

"With Ronald Reagan becoming president, there will be a lot of Republican firms from California, Texas and other states opening Washington branches to cash in on their Republican credentials," one Washington lawyer predicts.

- The increase in firms that openly specialize in lobbying Congress and in firms that form political action committees to give money directly to political candidates has been substantial. "In the last ten years there's been a real growth in the Washington lawyer-lobbyists," says lawyer Michael Pertschuk, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission.

- Concern has mounted that the increasing number, wealth and experience of talented lawyers representing private concerns with narrowly focused interests has led to a decline in the ability of government officials and public-interest lawyers to represent broader social interests.

"What you create in Washington is a system where the affluent have access," says lawyer and former White House aide Terence L. O'Rourke.

The typical Washington lawyer may represent anyone from the importer trying to get a waiver to import railroad ties from Mexico to a candy company trying to stop the FTC from regulating television advertisements aimed at children.

In a surprising number of cases, lawyers in private practice here have either helped write the laws while serving as congressional aides or have helped enforce them while serving in federal agencies. Such lawyers often know more about the interpretations of highly detailed laws and regulations and their history than do the officials who now administer them.

A client coming to Washington may need to know whom to see in a federal agency to get an interpretation of a regulation affecting his business, or who in Congress he must persuade to change legislative language in ways that help his business — perhaps preserving a special subsidy or avoiding a costly new rule. The lawyer helps the businessman formulate his best case and learns at what levels of government to present it.

While some dismiss Washington lawyers as lobbyists and "hired guns with the meter running," practitioners of the art plead innocent.

"I tell clients that we have no influence in Washington," says Clifford, a Washington lawyer for thirty years who has served Democratic presidents since Harry S. Truman and who was secretary of defense in 1968. "What we do have is a long relationship with federal agencies. We have their confidence and trust, and that is invaluable."

On the desk in Clifford's woodpaneled office overlooking the White House is a collection of impressive-looking paperweights — gifts, he explains, from Presidents Truman, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Clifford is an embodiment of the reason a client's hometown lawyer cannot just look up the law or relevant federal regulation. "We have become much more a

government of men than of laws," says Roderick M. Hills, a partner in Latham, Watkins & Hills of Los Angeles and Washington and head of the Securities and Exchange Commission under President Gerald R. Ford.

With this crescendo of regulations, it's become terribly important to know who the personalities are and how they will react. . . . Influence isn't the issue but rather understanding."

Some critics wonder, however, whether the system gives all points of view an equal chance to be heard, or whether Washington lawyers as a group may not make the federal labyrinth even more difficult to negotiate.

"Washington lawyers all want complicated law, whatever their politics," says W. Bowman Cutter III, former associate director of the Office of Management and Budget. "....They take an unbelievably complex government, which they have made more complex, and provide special access to people who can afford to pay."

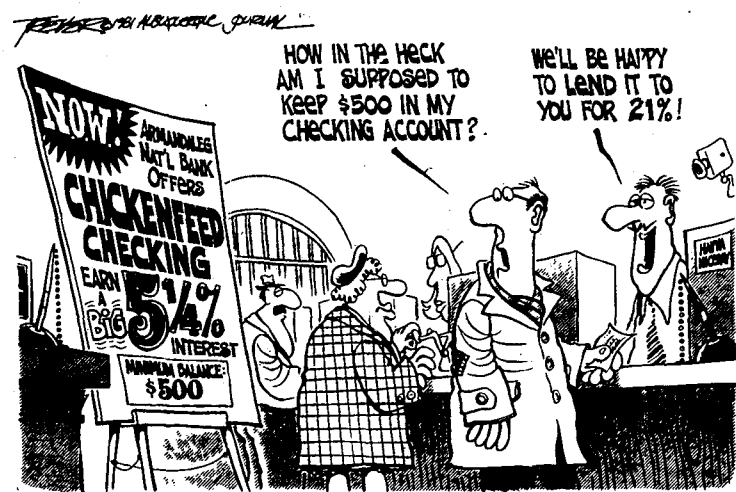
Says another lawyer now in private practice, "The more mixed up the laws get and the more regulations there are, the better off lawyers are."

"When I see a person wanting a nuclear power license coming into my office, with the inevitable years of regulatory delays that getting a licence entails, well, I just see hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees floating into my office."

Government lawyers can hold their own against private Washington lawyers in open court, Judge Mikva believes, "but when they're battling in the legislative arena or trying to win the hearts of executive policy makers, the private sector can just walk rings around them."

The high incomes available to private Washington lawyers also drain off many of the more-talented lawyers from government and so-called public interest groups.

Given the resulting imbalance in the adversary system, Mikva has written, often "there is no confrontation of



adversaries and no assurance that all conflicting positions and interests will be equally represented.

Lawyer Benny L. Kass puts it another way, "While General Motors is entitled to competent counsel, so is the public. That's where we need to put our efforts in Washington."

Having grown affluent in the last decade, however, Washington's lawyers look forward to a continued boom during the 1980s regardless of the changing of administrations or the influx of more law firms.

"With an ever-growing volume of business in Washington, you need have no fear of competition," one successful lawyer said over lunch with a colleague.

"I guess that's true," the other lawyer said with a satisfied chuckle. "The more lawyers that come here, it seems, the more business there is."

Copyright 1980 Los Angeles Times  
Reprinted by Permission

## BOOKSHELF

### STICKS AND STONES AND ICE CREAM CONES:

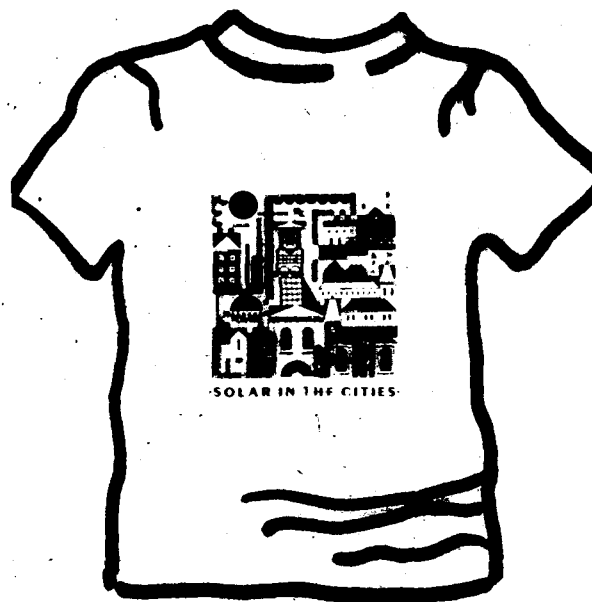
Crafts in a child's world. Lovely things to make by hand. Games and happenings and celebrations. Playthings from other lands. How to plan parties plus a full length play with costume and set designs. ~~\$4.95~~ **\$3.00**

**THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE:** As the Boston Globe put it: "No book in shorter space with fewer words, will help any writer more than this persistent little volume." By William Strunk and E.B. White. **\$1.95**

**SPORTS MEDICINE BOOK:** What every athlete, coach, trainer and fitness buff needs to know about exercise, training, nutrition, drugs, injuries, environment and sex. ~~\$4.95~~ **\$5.00**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MEDICINAL HERBS.** How to prepare and use hundreds of herbal remedies for good health, strength and vitality. Includes a cross-reference section. **\$1.75**

**HANDBOOK OF THE NUTRITIONAL CONTENTS OF FOODS.** This book is the largest, most detailed source of food nutrition information ever prepared. Indispensable to dietitians, research workers, teachers and other professionals, this handbook is invaluable to anyone interested in better health and nutrition. For the selection of foods high in nutrition, whether you are on a special diet or not, you will find no other book as comprehensive and accurate. **\$4.00.**



**SOLAR T-SHIRTS:** Support solar energy with this "Solar in the Cities" T-shirt from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. The shirts are tan with a four-color design. L,M,S. ~~\$6.00~~ **\$5.00**

TO: DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

Please send the following items. I enclose check or money order

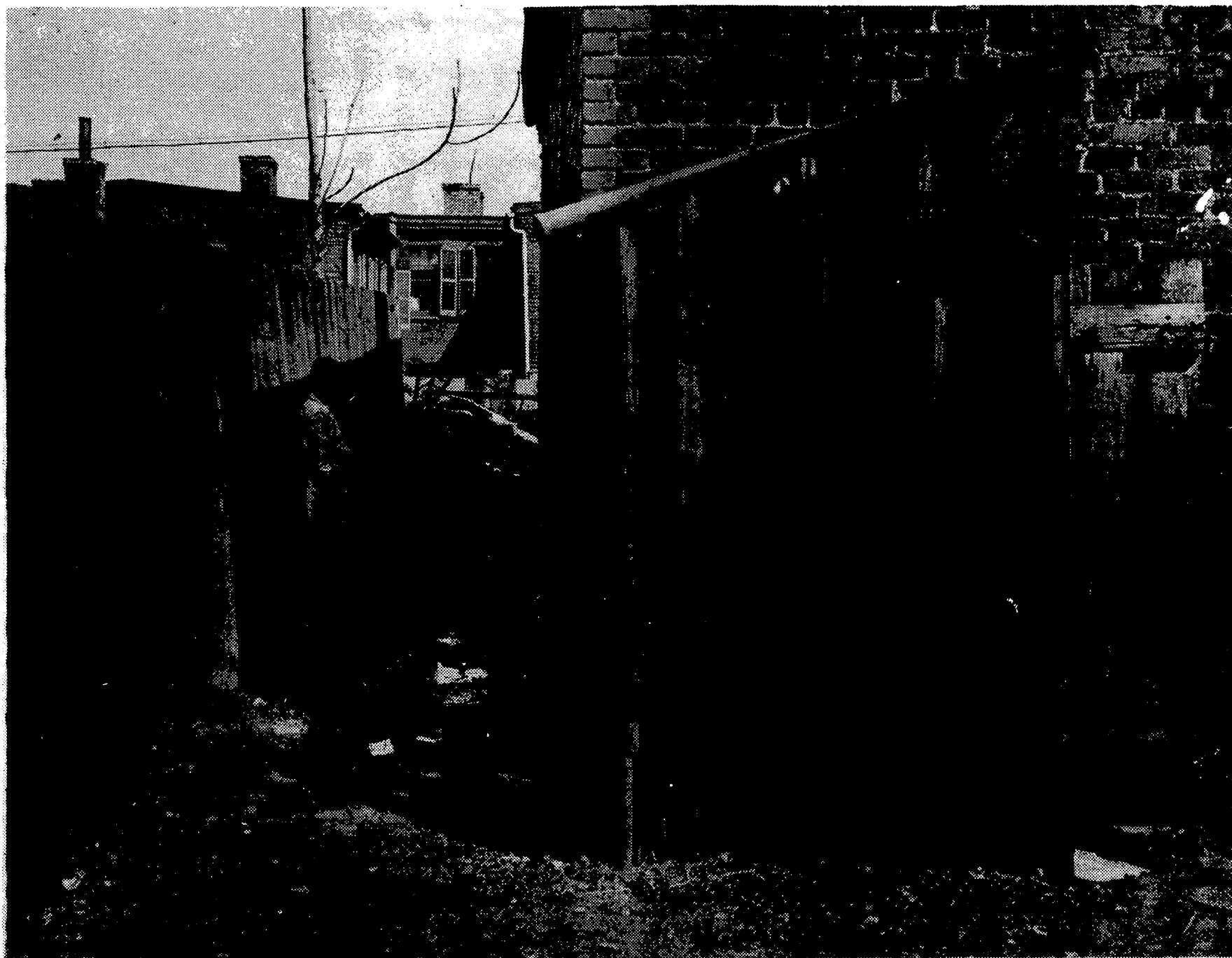
ITEM	PRICE
TOTAL . . . . .	
6% TAX (DC only). . . . .	
POSTAGE & HANDLING. . . . .	\$1.00
PAY THIS AMOUNT	

NAME . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . .  
ZIP . . . . .

( ) Check here if you are not a subscriber and we'll send you a free trial subscription with your order.



# The city



## Alley Life Revisited

STEVEN J. DINER

*James Borchert, Alley Life in Washington: Family, Community, Religion, and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970. University of Illinois Press, 1980.*

Reading Jim Borchert's new book on alley life was like a walk down memory lane. I recalled earnest liberal reformers of the 1950s and 1960s telling us that children could never be successful and adults could never lead meaningful lives in the horrendous slums of our central cities. Demands for slum clearance and construction of decent low-income housing raced through my head, and evoked solemn analyses of family breakdown and social pathology in the ghetto.

These are not the subjects of Borchert's book, although such eminent housing reformers as First Lady Ellen Wilson appear alongside early professional social workers like Charles Weller, Executive Officer of the

Associated Charities and author in 1908 of *Neglected Neighbors*, a compassionate expose of alley life. Borchert has written a book about the objects of reformers' concern, the black alley residents of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Washington, their living conditions, work, attitudes, religious and folk customs, families and child rearing practices, their social relationships and daily routines.

This kind of history of the inarticulate—of those who seldom leave behind them diaries or collections of letters and papers, who do not publish books and articles and who do not appear in the records of major institutions, in biographical directories, or even in high school yearbooks—is much in vogue these days among professional historians. Researchers now marshal the full power of the computer to examine in aggregate fertility rates, age at marriage and death, household size, income, and the like. Few practitioners of this "new social history"

have used as wide a variety of sources as has Borchert, and few have studied the twentieth century, where the numbers are much greater and social patterns much more complex and varied. Particularly notable is his use of photographs, mostly taken by reformers to show how bad things were in the alleys, and a series of first-hand accounts by reformers like Weller describing the social pathology of the alleys. Only Borchert uses the latter and numerous other sources to show how distorted were the reformers' perceptions, and how inconsistent these perceptions were with reformers' own photographs and written observations.

Alley communities typically consisted of clusters of houses in the interior of city squares, with the alley dwellings backing onto

Steven Diner is chair of the Department of Urban Studies at the University of the District of Columbia.

# THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

## COUNTRY INNS OF AMERICA: UPPER NEW ENGLAND

## COUNTRY INNS OF AMERICA: LOWER NEW ENGLAND

## COUNTRY INNS OF AMERICA: NEW YORK AND MID-ATLANTIC

Each one of these beautifully illustrated guides contains descriptions of more than 40 country inns and over 100 color photographs. \$6.95 each.

**NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND THEIR SIDE-EFFECTS:** a complete family guide to more than 500 of the most frequently purchased over-the-counter medications — their positive uses and their potential dangers — as described by government agencies, pharmaceutical associations and the manufacturers. \$4.95

**GLENN'S COMPLETE BICYCLE MANUAL:** Step-by-step instructions for taking care of all types of bikes. Each task is supported with keyed photos and detailed drawings clearly depicting what is to be done and how. Explains how to fit your machine to you and how to maintain it for maximum efficiency. Gives helpful hints for more enjoyable and safe bicycling, including cross-country touring. \$6.95

**A LEGAL GUIDE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES:** This practical book covers all the important legal aspects of living and working together as a gay/lesbian couple. Straight-forward information explains the legal options and alternatives of child custody and visitation rights, relating to former spouses, foster children and adoption, buying and selling houses, transferring deeds, moving on, dividing property, living-together agreements and planning for death. \$10.95

**THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ROCK:** "The best up-to-date rock encyclopedia since Leilian Roxon's by-now antiquated 'Rock Encyclopedia.' — John Rockwell, New York Times. "Compact, informative, and remarkably accurate....highly recommended." — Los Angeles Times. "A metaphorical history of our times....something you pick up to check one detail and end up reading for two hours." — Boston Herald-American. "....the entries detail — every elegantly and intelligently — the current state of the art." — Rolling Stone. \$10.95

**THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JAZZ:** This book is a comprehensive and beautifully produced volume, covering over 400 of today's modernists and traditional pioneers of jazz, with carefully prepared selective discographies and illustrated by more than 150 photos and 275 record jackets. A book no jazz fan should be without. \$8.95

**THE WORLD ALMANAC AND BOOK OF FACTS: 1981** edition includes last fall's election returns, a labor union directory, income per capita by state, and a revised and up-dated World History chronology. Of course, all the other stuff is there as well. \$8.95

**ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970.** By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the Gazette at 20% off list price. \$14.80.

**BLACK POETS OF THE UNITED STATES: From Paul Laurence Dunbar to Langston Hughes.** The only full-length study of the major black poets of the US from early slavery times to Langston Hughes is now available in English. First published in France in 1963, the book is, in the words of Robert Bone, "a seminal work not likely soon to be replaced as the standard treatment in its field." Langston Hughes called it "a monumental work." After analyzing the impact of slavery on the black psyche and on the patterns of religious feeling, author Jean Wagner discusses the evolution of black lyrical expression to the end of the 19th century. He then focuses on Dunbar and his contemporaries, emphasizing their struggle with stereotypes stemming from minstrelsy, popular song and southern white writing. The heart of the book examines the major figures of the Negro Renaissance: Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes and Sterling Brown. \$5.50.

**KING: A BIOGRAPHY:** This book, by David Lewis, updates Lewis's notable assessment of Martin Luther King, Jr., a book acclaimed by leading historians and critics when it appeared shortly after King's death. Now a decade later, this edition includes new information and speculations on FBI harassment of King, the Senate findings of intelligence operations and law abuse, and the sinister implications of various conspiracy theories surrounding King's tragic death. \$5.95

**RAPPIN' AND STYLIN' OUT: Communication in Urban Black America:** "This well-organized collection of articles traces the African heritage in nonverbal communication, speaker-audience response, music and poetry." — Library Journal. \$5.95

**THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MALCOLM X:** By Peter Goldman. For this second edition of a major work on one of the most important black leaders of this century, the author, a senior editor of Newsweek, has added a substantial epilogue which argues convincingly that three of the five accomplices in Malcolm X's assassination in 1965 are still free, while a fourth is serving a short sentence for an unrelated offense. Meanwhile, despite the efforts of William Kunstler and others, two men who are probably innocent remain in prison "wasted like pawns sacrificed in somebody else's wild chess game," as one of them puts it. \$7.95

TO: DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

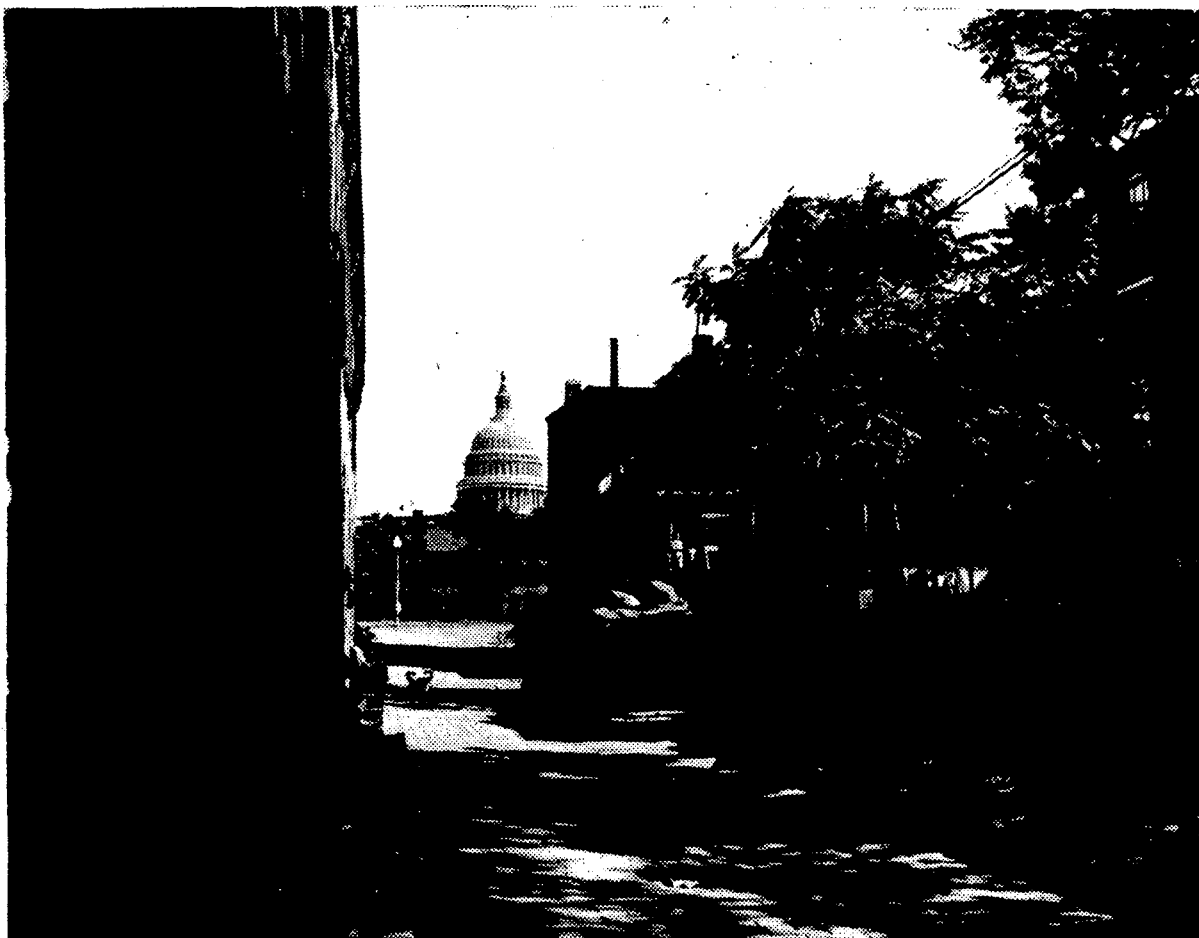
Please send the following items. I enclose check or money order

ITEM	PRICE
TOTAL . . . . .	
6% TAX (DC only). . . . .	
POSTAGE & HANDLING. . . . .	\$1.00
PAY THIS AMOUNT	

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....ZIP.....

( ) Check here if you are not a subscriber and we'll send you a free trial subscription with your order.





Temple Court, 1939

the rear walls of the houses which faced the exterior streets. Located in working class neighborhoods like Southwest, lower Georgetown, and Foggy Bottom, the typical alley community had only a single small entranceway from the exterior street. Thus literally and socially hidden from view, the alleys struck reformers as dark, neglected and deteriorated places that inevitably bred social ills. Alley dwellings, which appeared in many medium sized cities of the nineteenth century, developed because of the shortage of land in the central cities. Before the advent of a reasonably fast and efficient system of mass transit, most people walked to wherever they had to go, and therefore cities had denser populations and more intensive and varied land uses than they have today. In large cities like New York or Chicago, tenements became profitable, but in cities the size of Washington, alley dwellings were sufficient to meet the need for low-income housing in the central city.

When first built in the mid-nineteenth century, Washington's alleys housed many low-income whites as well as blacks, but as racial segregation in housing became widespread at the end of the century, the alleys became almost entirely black. At their height in 1897, nearly 19,000 people lived in alleys, and 90% were black. In the early twentieth century, reformers struggled to awaken public consciousness of the alley evil, and Congress passed laws to eliminate them, but with little effect.

Ultimately, the automobile and its land-use demands destroyed the alleys. Parking lots and repair shops sprung up in alleys. Low income blacks moved in larger numbers into on-street houses in the central city which became vacant when middle-class whites with automobiles moved further from the central core. Ironically, the few alley dwellings that survived are now quite fashionable. As Borchert notes, in 1970 two senators and three congressmen resided in the very alley structures of which housing reformer Jacob Riis said, "There is nothing good in that kind of alley."

In a lengthy opening chapter summarizing the fruits of meticulous research in census records, city directories and other sources, Borchert details the process by which black alley communities arose and later disappeared. The rest of the book examines with great resourcefulness what life was like for black alley dwellers. Chapters consider in turn family

life, community relationships, childhood, work, and religion and folklife. Borchert argues that alley dwellers lived well-organized lives, had stable quasi-extended families, showed imagination in adapting to the physical conditions of the alleys and to low-paying and unsteady jobs, took care of community members in need, and generally lived by reasonable and shared norms.

Thus, Borchert joins the growing chorus of scholars who have challenged the notion, once widely accepted, that urban ghettos and slums housed socially disorganized people with various pathologies whose lives had disintegrated after migration from rural communities and as a result of harsh urban conditions. It is a convincing analysis, although it is hard to accept the author's discussion of a period of more than a hundred years without any consideration of how life changed over time. The absence of any references to how such events as the 1919 race riot, the 1930s depression, the New Deal and both World Wars affected alley dwellers may be carrying the history of the inarticulate to something of an extreme.

Borchert is keenly aware of the large implications of his study, and throughout the book draws comparisons between alley dwellers in Washington and alley dwellers in other American and European cities. He also contrasts his conclusions about Washington's alley dwellers with studies of lower class blacks in other cities.

Which brings us to the frustrating thing about this book. Borchert does not distinguish adequately between those aspects of the daily lives of his subjects that stemmed from the physical conditions of the alley, and those that stemmed from their adaptation of their rural black cultural traditions to city life. If the black experience is the crucial influence on the subjects of his book, then Borchert ought to tell us how their lives differed from those of low-income rural black Washingtonians whose houses faced the street. On the other hand, if the alley was the crucial difference, then we should learn how the lives of the ten percent of alley dwellers who were white compared with that of the black alley residents. We don't.

This problem is at the very foundation of twentieth century urban social policy. From the earliest alley reformers to the days of Southwest urban renewal, liberal reformers believed that

improvement of the physical environment in which people lived could improve significantly the quality of their lives. Slums were bad because their inhabitants lived in crowded, deteriorated conditions. Tear down the slums and build new, clean public housing, they implored, and disease, crime and immorality would disappear. Only it didn't work that way. Slum clearance has often destroyed vital communities that, as Borchert proves, the reformers never knew existed. Moreover, a change in the housing conditions of the poor, without a commensurate change in the economic opportunities or social attitudes of the poor, has done little to improve their quality of life and their outlook for the future. Finally, as we see so dramatically today, hopeless slum dwellings, including a few alleys, can be dramatically transformed into attractive and expensive residences when they are occupied by people with the means, knowhow, and incentive to renovate them.

Borchert understands this well, and leaves no doubt that the crucial influences on the lives of the black people he studied were the rural black traditions, their economic hardships and limited opportunities in the city, and the system of rigid racial segregation. He gives us the best historical portrait yet of daily life among poor black people in this city, and the best that we are likely to see for many years. Yet in the end, we are left with the sense that the lives of these people would not have been terribly different had they lived in houses facing the street.

## Uncovering communities and inventing neighborhoods

ELIZABETH J. MILLER

This year, the Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies turned to community life, with participants presenting a rich variety of techniques for understanding historical as well as contemporary urban communities. Georgetown resident Mary Mitchell, for example, researched real estate surveys, maps, city directories, photographs, and the census during her five year study of the Georgetown waterfront. She told the conference, which was sponsored by the Columbia Historical Society and GWU's Center for Washington Area Studies, that contrary to traditional understanding, the waterfront's vitality continued into the 20th century, supporting a thriving mercantile and light industrial economy.

Many of these same resources, as well as records of the Georgetown Citizens Association and the Progressive Citizens of Georgetown helped Dennis Gale of GW's Urban and Regional Planning Department, gain insight into the early restoration movement in Georgetown. That section, particularly around Dumbarton Avenue and 29th St., was the first to experience "gentrification" during the 1920s and 1930s as white middle-class homeowners, usually government employees,

replaced older working class residents. Georgetown's large black population decreased dramatically during these decades.

But historians are also learning to use sources that, while susceptible to subjective interpretation, can present more tangible evidence of a community's life. John Pearce, head of the GWU Historic Preservation Program, summarized a student-initiated study of Brookland. A 1920s suburban village in the shadow of Catholic University and the B & O Railroad, Brookland has remained remarkably stable as well as socially and economically integrated. The students combined architectural history, domestic interior design and oral interviews to shed light on this unique community.

Historical archeology in Alexandria has revealed new information on the city's 19th century black community. Centered near the intersection of Duke and Alfred Streets, the "Dip" was west of the center of Alexandria's 19th century white community. Artifacts recovered by director Pamela

*Elizabeth Miller is curator of the Columbia Historical Society.*

Cressey and the city-funded Alexandria Archeology Research Center are being analyzed and compared with demographic information.

Less familiar to the historian are the tools of the anthropologist and folklorist, illustrated at the conference by Archie Edwards's performance of urban blues. Edwards supplemented his performance with fascinating personal commentary on life around his barber-shop on Bunker Hill Road.

Oral history can also fill the gap created by written sources. Keith Melder's concise summary of the demolition and redevelopment of Southwest pointed out how the media urged planners to pursue total reconstruction (e.g. Chalmers Roberts's "Progress or Decay: Washington Must Choose" in the *Washington Post*) while official publications of the NCPC, RLA and other planning agencies ignored pleas to integrate the existing social fabric with limited redevelopment. With the Southwest community consequently dispersed throughout the city, an interviewing project intent on envening the account would be quite ambitious.



There is, however a risk involved in the use of such tools, as Frederick Gutheim suggested during the session on Georgetown. Gutheim described the difference between uncovering a community (Mitchell's study of the Georgetown waterfront and economic life) and inventing a neighborhood identity (Glaes's study of the early restoration movement and appeal of Georgetown). Can our contemporary concept of neighborhood be validly applied to past urban community life? With the limited historical resources available, how can we be certain there was the awareness of place, of shared identity that we now associate with neighborhood life? Further, we can not assume that the risk of overprojecting the "sense of community" dissipates in studies of more contemporary neighborhoods.

## DC BOOKSHELF

### SUPPLY OF SALE BOOKS LIMITED

**THIRTY-TWO PICTURE POST CARDS OF OLD WASHINGTON, DC.** Ready to mail. Rare photos reproduced as post cards in sepia. A different way to stay in touch. \$2.75.

**HEALING RESOURCES:** A comprehensive guide to alternative therapy, preventative medicine and holistic health practices in the metropolitan area. Originally \$5.95. Reduced to \$3.

**CAPTIVE CAPITAL:** Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the *LA Times*. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the *Washington Post*. "Must Reading," *Afro-American*. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the *Chicago Tribune*.

**NOTICE:** The *Gazette* has secured the rights to "Captive Capital" and can now offer it to its readers 40% off the list price of \$10. For *Gazette* readers: \$6!

**BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

**PUBLIC BANKING: A MODEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.** A monograph on how to alter the city's banking system by William Batko of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

**OLD WASHINGTON, DC, IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS: 1846-1932.** This is a truly fine collection of over 200 prints that provide an enduring record of this city. \$7.95.

**SECRET CITY:** Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$5.95.

**ANSWERS:** Susan Meehan's widely praised guide to community resources in DC. Where to go for help, how to deal with various problems etc. Truly useful. Send \$4.95. ~~13.00~~

**STATEHOOD T-SHIRT:** Light blue with dark blue lettering. Reads "End Capital Punishment. Support DC Statehood. "DC Gazette" in small letters below. State size: only small and medium left. ~~\$4.75~~ ~~13.75~~

**STATEHOOD BUMPER STICK:** Same legend as above. ~~\$2.50~~ ~~11~~

**YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON:** A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

**JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON:** Done in Wieb's wry and pointed style, this map was drawn for the Bicentennial and is now available for 40% off at \$1.50.

**WASHINGTON:** Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning comprehensive history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$7.50. The basic book of DC history.

**ZOO BOOK:** Photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. 60% off the list price. \$2.

**C&O OLD PICTURE ALBUM:** 40% off list price. ~~\$2.95~~ ~~1.95~~

TO: DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

Please send the following items. I enclose check or money order

ITEM	PRICE
TOTAL .....	
6% TAX (DC only) .....	
POSTAGE & HANDLING. ....	\$1.00
PAY THIS AMOUNT	

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....ZIP.....

( ) Check here if you are not a subscriber and we'll send you a free trial subscription with your order.

**ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970.** By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the *Gazette* at 20% off list price. \$14.80.





## Low Level Evictions

Local planning and zoning activists had reason to cheer about the appointment of Lindsley Williams to the Zoning Commission, but no sooner had Williams been named by the mayor, then the zoning commission reminded us that he is only going to have one vote. The commission voted 3-1 last month to pretend that it was down-zoning the area north of Dupont Circle on Connecticut Avenue. We say pretend because lowering height limits from 90 to 70 feet seems like a down-zoning until you realize that eighty percent of the building in the area are currently less than 59 feet. What the commission appears to have done is to limit the height of new construction rather than discouraging it as Dupont Circlers wanted. That there is still adequate impetus to tear down the pleasant, historic and variegated commercial strip north of the circle was indicated by developers' lawyer Jacques DePuy who said the commission had taken a "reasonable position." To most of us who live or work in the affected section, it doesn't make much difference whether the high rises that evict us are 70 or 90 feet in height.

## Politicians on the Warpath

We received a news release last month from Nadine Winter announcing that "I, as the elected representative of Ward Six, have declared a war on crime." This is the sort of thing that makes one feel more comfortable wandering around Capitol Hill of an evening. The vision of Nadine leading a tank squadron down 9th Street certainly scares us and we imagine it would have a somewhat similar effect on any prospective criminal.

There has been a spate of wars on crime of late. Legislative solutions to the crime problem are piling up in the city council hopper. Some of the bills may help -- particularly efforts to tighten up the illegal trade in gold and silver, but a lot of it is just window dressing. The basic problem is that criminals don't read legislation -- either before or after it's passed. The mores of a community seem to operate quite independently of the various political quick-fixes that are suggested to improve them.

Further, much of the attention is concentrated on the treatment of crimes after they have occurred. There is substantial evidence that this is of minimal effectiveness -- whatever the solution adopted. After all, if hard-nosed

law enforcement were the answer DC should be virtually crime-free since we have more persons in jail per-capita than almost any other jurisdiction in the country.

The most efficient and effective way to stop crime is to discourage its commission. And contrary to the general notion, politicians and the police have only limited contributions to make in this regard.

We keep going to meetings where people spend all their time complaining about the invisibility, tardiness and general incompetence of the police. The problem is that, to the extent that these complaints are true, the situation is not about to be corrected. If the archaic traditions of the police won't prevent it, budget cuts will. The fact is that, now as always, crime prevention is the result of community rather than bureaucratic action. In more and more neighborhoods, residents are belatedly coming to realize this and are organizing to look after their own affairs.

There remains, however, a disparity between what ordinary citizens are actually doing and what politicians think should be done. The politicians think crime is stopped at the courthouse, police station and Lorton. It never occurs to them, for example, that providing neighborhood crime patrols with CB radios might be a remarkable cheap and efficient action. The mayor has proposed installing radios, but in official cars which are rarely seen in many neighborhoods. Politicians who are interested in reducing crime as well as getting reelected might find food for thought in talking to those neighborhood organizations that have actually started to do something about crime. Once again, our friends at city hall need to be reminded that not all the expertise in DC is on their payroll.

## Social Retention

The DC school system has acted courageously in facing up to the true level of achievement of its elementary students. And superintendent Jim Guines showed savvy in trying to organize a massive volunteer effort to change that level -- although putting Sterling Tucker in charge might suggest to some perceptive students that there are easier ways to the top than making numbers add up correctly or giving words meaning. There is a suspicion in some quarters that Sterling is more interested in the 1000 volunteer tutors than he is in the 10,000 school children and that education may do for him what Christianity did for the new right. On the other hand, Bill Raspberry, who sometimes makes Dr. Pangloss seem like Lenny Bruce, says that if Tucker "can do a good enough job in this unpaid volunteer effort to boost his political fortunes, then bully for him."

For our part, we think a wiser plan would have thrown the volunteer recruitment program open to competitive bidding by all would-be mayors. After all, what better test for prospective chief executives than to see what they can do without any money to spend?

There is, however, a more serious question lurking behind the end of social promotions in the schools, namely that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Having ended the unwarranted social promotion of students, we need now to end the unwarranted social retention of teachers. As one top school official told the Post, "I think we're seriously going to have to take a look at our teaching personnel, either give help to the people who are not doing their job well so they will do better, or if that fails, get rid of them."

If Guines chooses such a course, he can expect no help from the Teachers Union and damn little from other public officials. In all the talk about how to increase efficiency in government and deal with budget cut-backs, not one politician has proposed a plan to insure that the reduced workforce is, at least, the best we can have. Institutionalized incompetence is simply taken as a given. This, not only is expensive, it is insulting and demoralizing to the many teachers and other city workers who work hard and well at their jobs. The city has been arbitrarily firing qualified personnel in favor of those with seniority, whether qualified or not. Until we find some way to reward and retain those with merit, putting the burden on elementary school children is not only unfair -- it won't work.

If you're tired of reading the Post and the Star, you can now get the Los Angeles Times delivered to your door by noon each day. Southwest Distributors (484-1150) is getting the paper flown into Dulles and will transport it from thence to your home for \$35.75 quarterly for the daily edition and \$62.40 quarterly for daily and Sunday.

Isn't there an editor at either daily who can resist the temptation to distort leads in order to provide a pseudo-news peg? In the past month, both the Star and the Post suggested that Warren Burger was the leading force in local crime prevention activity, simply because Burger happened to have made a speech in which he laid down his traditional tough-guy philosophy on crime. For example, Keith Richburg led off with this piece of silliness: "Sparked by heightened community fears and a rare public outcry from Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, DC City Council members are scrambling to outdo each other in taking the hardest line against criminals." The implication was that David Clarke's long-standing revision of the local criminal code had been inspired by Burger and that other councilmembers were more impressed by the chief justice's views than they were by the city's rising crime rate or citizen complaints.

Similarly, Lyle Denniston in the Star began a story with: "The District's highest court is expected to be the first tribunal to react to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger's controversial proposal to keep 'dangerous' suspects in jail until they are tried." Doesn't anyone at the Star know that the Burger "proposal" has been DC law for years and that appeals courts don't rule on the validity of speeches?

While on the crime beat, I'm sorry to report that, according to Third District files, a woman was recently sitting on a toilet seat in a hotel when her purse was snatched. There's no place to escape it.

Since Metro raised its fares, bus ridership has declined. The beat goes on.

Michael Weisskopf and Howard Simons, reporting from the Sino-Soviet frontier for the Post called the roughly two million troops along that border "the world's largest mass of troops and arms." Reader Andrew Hamilton asks: what about central Europe where there are 2.1 million troops arrayed along the NATO-Warsaw Pact border only 500 miles long? The Chinese-Soviet border is 4500 miles long.

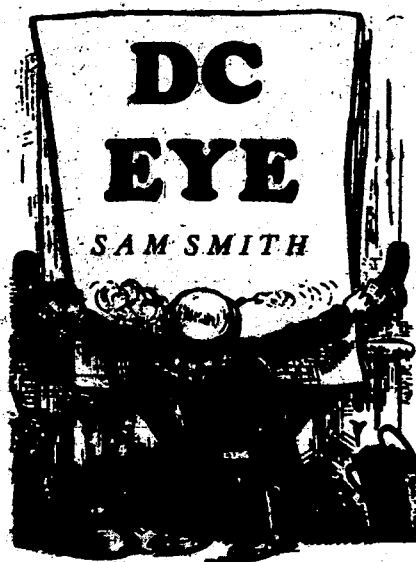
And while you're at it, Ben, you better check those statistics on how various wards have gained and lost population over the past ten years. That story on the apportionment changes as a result of the census was very interesting, but would have been even more so if the figures had been correct.

Chuck Bowie was a neighborhood commissioner in Ward Two active in working for rent control and condo-

minium control legislation. No more. Chuck has had to resign his post because his apartment building is being converted and he's been kicked out.

Better keep your children away from American University Park. The neighborhood commission over there is frantic over an apparent inundation of Sex and Drugs. Its recent newsletter warns that what is apparently a T-shirt shop is really selling drug paraphernalia. Sex newspapers, "with explicit photos of nude males and females" are on sale at boxes along Wisconsin Avenue. There are massage parlors a nude bar and "a suspected male house of prostitution on one neighborhood street."

In the most exciting academic news since William Spaulding addressed the FCC Philosophy Club, Willie Hardy has been named a fellow at UDC.



There are some peculiar goings-on on the local law enforcement scene. A police review board has found an officer (who was convicted of criminal assault in DC Superior Court) guilty of having been convicted of assault but innocent by department standards of using unnecessary force in the subduing of the prisoner-victim. In other words, what he did was okay by the police, just bad by the court's standard. The board's chair, Deputy Chief Rodwell Catoe, was so mad about the decision that he resigned from the board and wrote Chief Jefferson a letter in which he called it "irresponsible, unethical and most certainly not in the best interest of the citizens of Washington or the Metropolitan Police Department."

Meanwhile, three members of the Yulanda Ward Memorial Fund were subjected to seven and a half hours of questioning before a grand jury. The fund was established following the murder of Ward, a local housing activist. The fund takes the position that Ward's death was a political assassination. It has charged that the grand jury questioning was a case of "harassment."

And during a vigil in January to express sympathy for those killed in El Salvador and to protest US aid to the government there, participants noticed a white, middle-aged man in a long, dark coat using what was apparently a TV camera with a zoom lens. He meticulously photographed the faces of the protesters. When accosted he stuttered, "Uh,uh, Russian."

"Do you mean you're with Tass?" one woman asked. The man replied, "Ah, yah, yah."

One protester also noted a camera pointed at them from the roof of the nearby State Department building.

Tass denies they sent anyone to the demonstration and claimed that their only photographer is a woman.

One of the rare benefits looming on the horizon of Reaganism is that federal funds may disappear for the area's fiscally unjustifiable subway system. And it's not just the new right and the old Gazette that feels they should. The Congressional Budget Office has released a report that says cutting the system to 69 miles could save \$1 billion. The report adds that subways "save little, if any, energy, have only transitory effects on congestion and pollution, incur very large operating deficits, and, by themselves, have only a minor effect on land use."

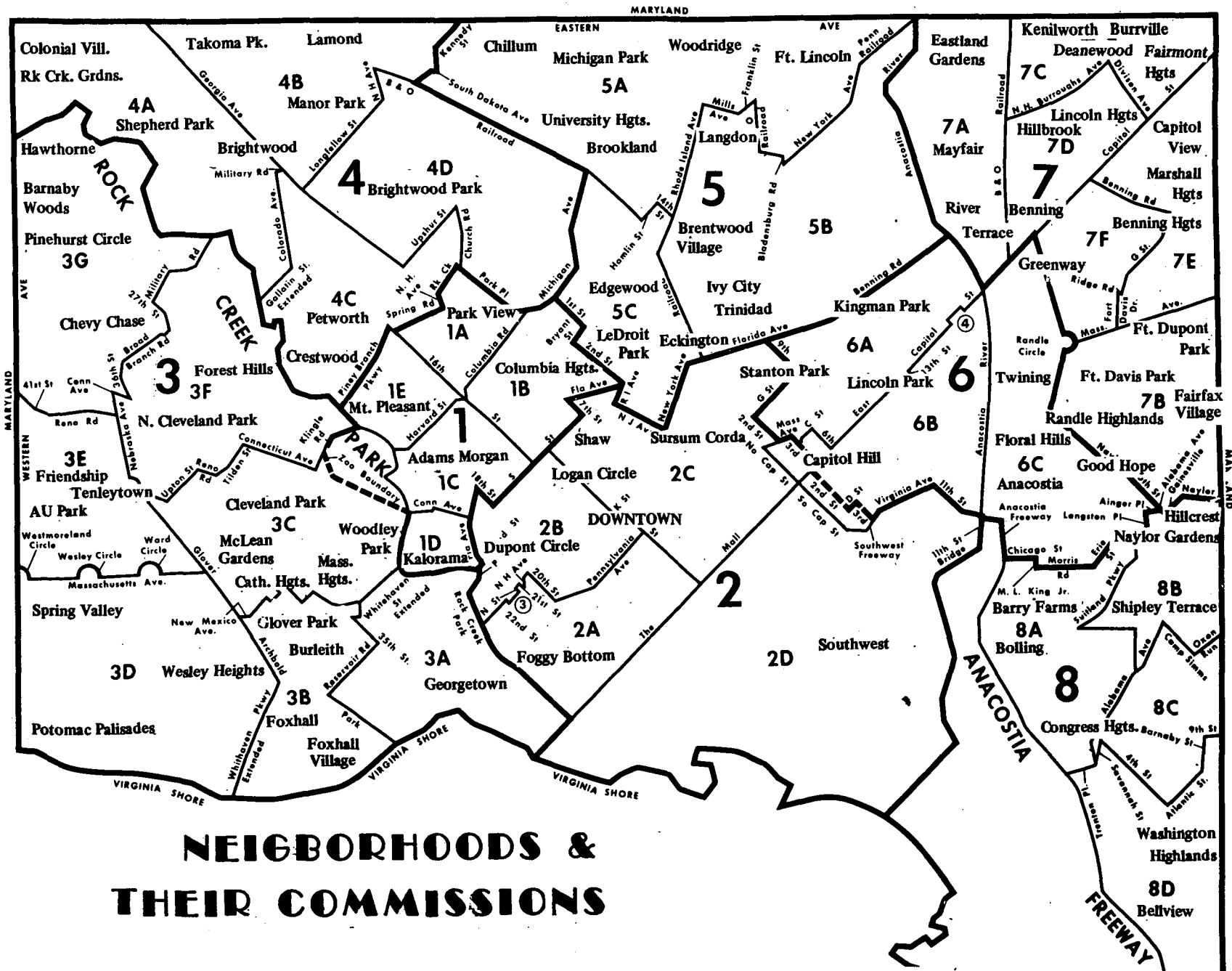
I used to work at a radio station where the unofficial motto was, "Only the devoted get screwed." The epigram came to mind as I read stories of the cuts in the budget of the Recreation Department, that orphan of the city government whose budget has increased less of the past decades than almost any government agency and which, in the past few years, has been hit even harder. Three years ago the department's budget was \$21 million. Rec has been ordered to reduce that to \$16 million by the end of this month. The staff, by this time, will have dropped from 750 to 443.

The Rec Department has been easy pickings. Its budget is small even at best -- about 1% of the city's total. Its director, William Rumsey, has been extraordinarily passive in defending his agency. And much of its constituency doesn't even vote.

First, Phil Merrill toddled in from Baltimore to take over the Washingtonian. Now an alternative publication up there known as the City Paper is out with something called 1981: Washington's Alternative Paper. As usual, the Gazette welcomes the new arrival on the grounds that this little rag always looks better when there's something to compare it to. Still, I can't feel totally sanguine about the trend towards absentee publishing, especially when 1981 starts out by calling Newsworks "Washington's last serious alternative." Having outlived the Washington Times, Quicksilver, The Colonial Times and Newswork and are halfway through our fifteenth year, I hope it hasn't been all just a whim. Further, our friends at the Washington Tribune seem a pretty serious lot as well.

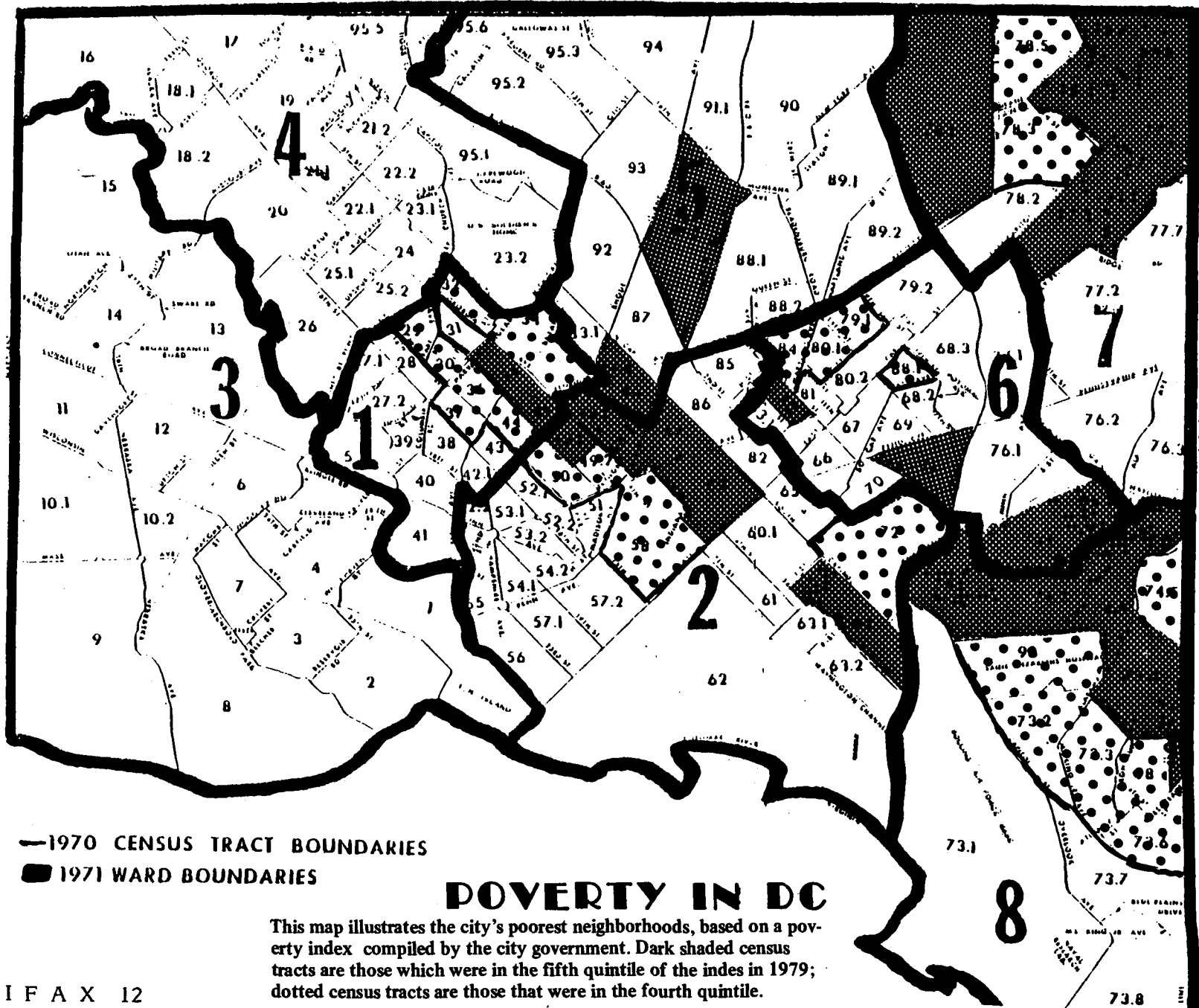
Oh well, it looks like Baltimore has us bracketed. Phil M. will tell us how to be chic and 1981 will tell us how to be counter-chic. Maybe something good will come of it, though. A town that names its brand new shopping plaza on the waterfront "Sam Smith Market" can't be all bad. The only thing I worry about is what 1981 is going to do with all its left-over stationary next January.





## NEIGHBORHOODS & THEIR COMMISSIONS

CITIFAX 11



CITIFAX 12

# What's Happening

**DAY CARE CENTERS:** The Recreation Department has a limited number of openings in its day care program. Eligibility and tuition are determined by a family's income and size. Info: 576-7226

**VOLUNTEER VISITS TO THE ILL:** The Visiting Nurses Association is looking for persons to visit homebound patients and read to them, play games, or just talk and listen. Volunteers visit patients who live near them and only during daylight hours. A nurse accompanies the volunteer on the first visit. Auto mileage or transit expense is reimbursed. Info: Volunteer Coordinator, 387-7333.

**GALLOPING GROCERY SHOPPERS:** This new outfit will do marketing for those too busy to do it for themselves or for the elderly and disabled. Orders are placed by phone and deliveries are made at the customer's convenience. Galloping Grocery Shoppers is open from nine to nine weekdays. Call 548-2771.

**YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS:** The city is accepting applications for this summer's program of the Youth Conservation Corps. Participants receive a salary while working on conservation projects. Applicants should be DC teenagers and will be chosen on a random basis from among those qualified. Applications and more information can be obtained by writing the Department of Recreation Youth Conservation Corps Program, 6115 Chillum Place NE, DC 20011. A SSAE legal length should be enclosed.

**NEW DEVELOPMENT ON W STREET:** An application has been filed with the Zoning Commission for a planned unit development on the south side of W Street between Foxhall Road and 44th St. The PUD would have 70 units, parking for 200 cars, a swimming pool and two tennis courts. The case is 81-1P and more information can be obtained from the commission.

**ANC VACANCIES:** There are vacancies in the following ANCs: 2C13, 3C01, 3F04 and 8D05. Nominating petitions are available in room 7 of the District Building and must be filed no later than May 19.

**GAY/LESBIAN HOTLINE:** The Gay Activist Alliance and the Gay Restaurant Owners of Washington have established a gay/lesbian hotline. Lesbian and gay victims of crime are being asked to call 332-5676 to report on incidents. The theory behind the service is that there is a reluctance among homosexual victims to report crimes to the police. The information collected by the hotline will be used to estimate crime levels, evaluate police response and induce the police to step up protection.

**STATEHOOD INITIATIVE:** The Statehood Initiative Committee has changed its name to the 51st State Committee. Hilda Mason has been elected president and Ed Guinan has been named chairman of the board. The committee is calling a citywide conference in April in preparation for the November election of convention delegates. The committee maintains offices at 1511 K NW, suite 841. Call 783-5821.

**WASHINGTON REVISITED:** A series of discussions about the architectural virtues and defects of some of the city's more prominent buildings. Sponsored by the Department of Architecture and Planning at Catholic University.

On March 18, the trainer, jockey and chief tout of Archihorse, John Wiebenson, will be among those discussing the FBI Building. Your editor will take part in the discussion of the National Air and Space Museum on April 8. On April 22, the topic will be Lafayette Square and the federal office complex and on May 6 it will be the National Permanent Building. Architects, users and critics will make up the panel for each program.

The sessions will be held at the Pension Bldg., 440 G NW, starting at 730 pm. There's a fee of

\$3.50 per program (\$1.50 for students). Info: 635-5188.

**UPPER NORTHEAST PUD:** There will be a hearing before the DC Zoning Commission on March 19 at 130 pm to consider a planned unit development and related rezoning on the southwestern side of Franklin St. between Girard and Lincoln Rd. NE. 4L Associates Joint Venture seeks to build seven structures with 136 residential units. The buildings would have a maximum height of 44 feet and there would be 95 parking spaces. The area is currently zoned for single-family residential.

**BILLS INTRODUCED:** The following legislation has been introduced in city council:

o Bill 4-81: To permit commercial advertising on the sides of Metrobuses and on the roofs of taxicabs. By Jerry Moore.

o Bill 4-88: To allow adults to direct that life-sustaining procedures be withheld or withdrawn if such procedures will only prolong the moment of death, and to provide a definition of death. By Dixon and Shackleton.

o Resolution 4-10: To endorse weekend use of the rear car of Metrorail trains by four or less bicycles. By Moore.

o A bill to earmark revenues from the city lottery for use by programs for the special education of the handicapped and for rent supplements. By Kane.

o A bill removing the requirement for council approval of mayoral nominees of department and agency heads. By Kane.

o A bill that would prohibit utilities from automatically passing on to the consumer the increased cost of fuel the companies pay. The rates would be reviewed each time by the Public Service Commission. By Kane.

o A bill to raise the tax on food sold in vending machines from 2% to 8%. By Kane.

**THREE MILE ISLAND MEMORIAL CONCERT:** Potomac Alliance, Clergy and Laity Concerned and the GWU Students for a Non-Nuclear Future are presenting Bright Morning Star in concert to commemorate the anniversary of the Three Mile Island incident. Friday March 27 at 8 pm in the Marvin Center, 800 21st NW. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door. Refreshments, childcare and interpretation for the deaf will be provided. Info: Michelle Carrier, 387-1744.

**RABID SKUNKS:** Anyone who purchased a skunk from the Animal Hut Pet Shop on Wisconsin Avenue after May 1980 is asked to contact the DC Animal Disease Control Branch at 576-6664. Twelve skunks sold to that store during this period were subsequently found to be rabid.

**ROOM FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS:** If you have a spare room that could be used by a foreign student, the Foreign Student Service Council would like to post your accommodations as available for rent or in exchange for services. Info: 232-4979.

**SHERIDAN SCHOOL:** Extended education program offers courses on CPR, aerobics and women's self-defense. Courses begin April 2 at the school, 4400 36th NW. Info: 362-7900.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY** serves as a regional coordinator for people interested in labor history. It is a clearinghouse and holds regular meetings. Dues at \$5 a year. Info: NCLHS, 815 16th NW, DC 20006.

**PARKS FOR BIKES:** The People's Alliance for Rock Creek Park is organizing support for a proposal that would gradually close portions of Beach Drive to automobile traffic, first on weekends then on weekdays as well. The park traffic plans of the National Park Service will be the subject of a hearing on March 11, 14 and 16 at the Nature Center, 5200 Glover Rd. For details on the hearings call 393-2555 or 426-6833. There will be a bike-in run-in to the March 14 hearing beginning at 9 am at Pierce Mill.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES:** Here's a list of forthcoming vacancies on city boards and commissions. Nominations should be made to the mayor in writing with full resume and references. Info: 727-1372.

o Criminal Justice Supervisory Board: 8 now.  
o Group Hospitalization Board: one now  
o Historic Records Committee: three now  
o Juvenile Justice Advisory Group: 10 in May.  
o Economic Development Advisory Committee: 10 in June.

This publication  
is available  
in microform.



University Microfilms  
International

Please send additional information  
for \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

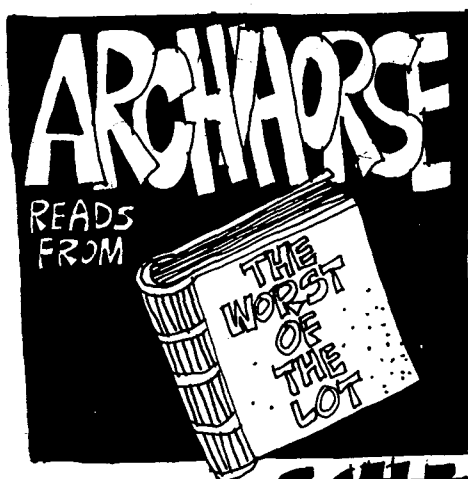
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

300 North Zeeb Road 30-32 Mortimer Street  
Dept. P.R. Dept. P.R.  
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48106 London W1N 7RA  
U.S.A. England

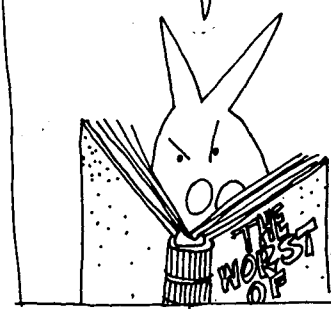
## CAPITOL GATEWAY

FOR A COPY of the Gazette's report on how the city stands to lose \$175 million on yet another developer boondoggle, send 75 cents to the Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009 and ask for our 'Capitol Gateway Report.'

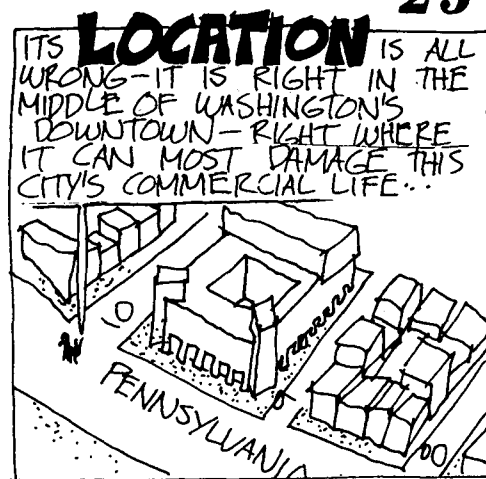
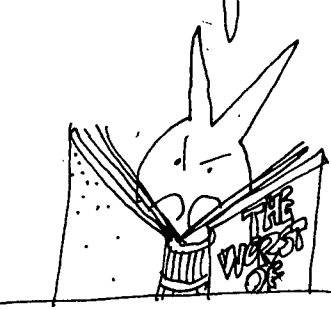




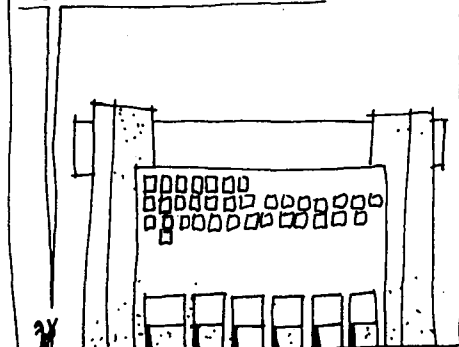
OUR WORST BUILDINGS CAN BE OUR BEST ARCHITECTURE TEACHERS—IF WE ARE WILLING TO **LEARN**...



TAKE THE F.B.I. BUILDING FOR EXAMPLE—THERE'S A REAL DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT NOT TO DO...



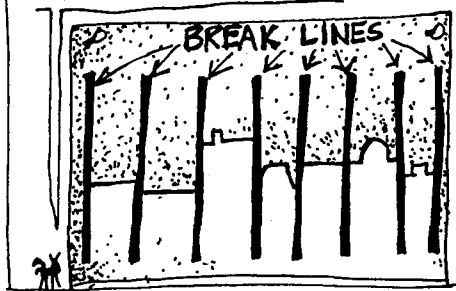
THAT'S WHY ITS **SCALE** IS ALL WRONG—IT'S JUST TOO BIG A DAM IN THE FLOW OF DOWNTOWN ACTIVITY...



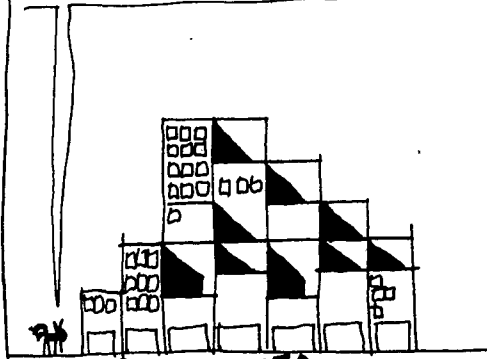
JUST LOOK AT WHAT THE F.B.I. DISPLACED—2 BLOCKS DENSE WITH BUILDINGS THAT STILL PRESENTED AN APPEARANCE OF SMALL SCALE...



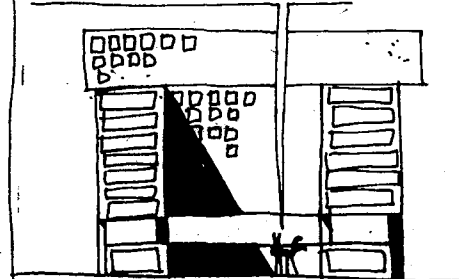
THESE BUILDINGS WERE MORE THAN JUST SHORT—THEY ALSO BROKE THE LENGTH OF THE BLOCK INTO SMALL PIECES, AS THIS DIAGRAM SHOWS...



THIS SUGGESTS HOW A NEW BUILDING COULD HAVE BEEN PUT UP THAT KEPT THE OLD VISUAL SCALE...



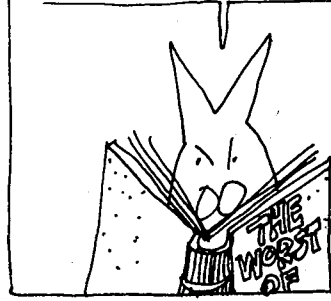
SUCH A BETTER-SCALED BUILDING COULD BE JUST AS BIG INSIDE, AS LONG AS IT DIDN'T WASTE SPACE ON A BIG EMPTY COURT LIKE THE F.B.I. BUILDING DOES...



THE F.B.I.'S **USE** PATTERN IS ALL WRONG, TOO—IT PUTS A 2-BLOCK CONCRETE FORT RIGHT WHERE A CITY SHOULD HAVE SHOPS, HOTELS & CAFES...



BUT, BAD AS THESE POINTS ARE, THEY DON'T INCLUDE WHAT IS SO TRULY PITIFUL ABOUT THE F.B.I. BUILDING...



IT'S THE **LACK** OF ANY IMPROVEMENT THAT'S SO BAD—THE F.B.I. HAS DONE NOTHING TO CORRECT ITS ERRORS, SO WE HAVE TO ASSUME THE F.B.I. **WILL NOT LEARN**...



## PLUS & MINUS

— The Barry administration is reportedly considering reneging on its commitment to slow and reduce traffic on Reno Road, following a scare campaign by some groups, including the AAA, aimed at convincing residents that less traffic on Reno would mean more on side streets. Even if this were proved true, which seems unlikely, it could be easily handled by proper signing. Most of the opposition to reducing traffic on Reno seems to be coming from the north end of the corridor. Since these folks have argued that the Reno Road Coalition has no right to policies that would increase traffic on their streets, perhaps the solution lies in observing a complementary principle, namely that people at the north end of the corridor have no business telling people at the south end how many lanes of traffic they should have. We could just reduce traffic for the southern portion and let the north fend for itself.

— From here on out, the city council chair can bottle up legislation even after it has been passed by committee, unless a majority of the council overrules him. This dangerous and stupid new procedure was opposed by only one councilmember: Dave Clarke.

— The extension of the Red Line north of Dupont Circle has been

further delayed. Now estimated opening is late 1982 or early 1983.

— The new type speed bumps being used on 46th Street have turned out to be a great success. Traffic has been both slowed and reduced.

— Dave Clarke has introduced legislation that would have the school board and neighborhood commissions elected simultaneously with the city council. The Gazette feels strongly that non-partisan and partisan elections should not be combined. If they are, it is likely that city councilmembers will start running slates loyal to them for school board and the neighborhood commissions and trying to control what they do. In Clarke's own word, for example, Frank Smith is the school board representative. Smith ran against Clarke for the council seat last time. He would not be likely to show up on a Clarke-headed ticket and might well lose if he didn't. Nothing would be gained by this turn of events since both Clarke and Smith are able legislators. The argument that there would be a higher turnout at a combined election is false, since people would tend to just vote the slate. Better drop this one,

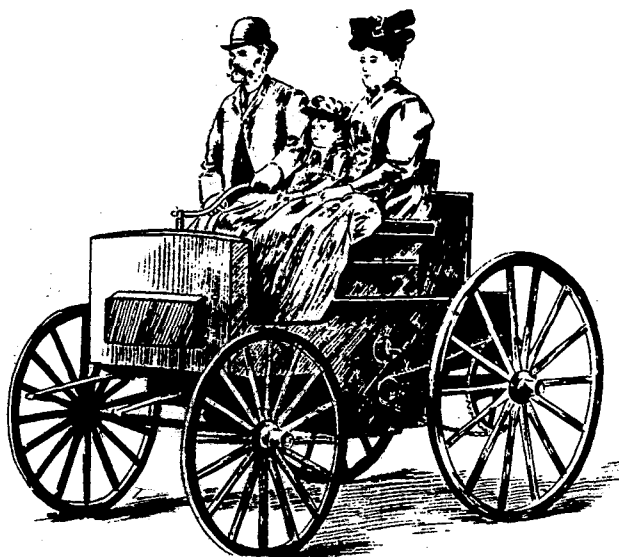
Dave. It's plain old crummy politics and it won't do anyone any good except for some ambitious ward and citywide politicians.

— The Magruder School, 16th & M NW, is being renovated by women who are trainees in non-traditional job skills programs operated by Wider Opportunities for Women. The project involves the cooperation of several city agencies, trade unions and WOW. The WOW program will use the building for training for a year in exchange for the renovation. Some 75 women are involved. Although the building is in basically sound condition, the women will get experience building partitions, painting and making minor repairs. The work will supplement the technical courses and counseling which make up the rest of the training program. (Info: Joy Jones, WOW, 783-5155)

— The DC Federation of Citizens Associations has gone running up to Capitol Hill to try to get Congress to overrule the city council's repeal of DC's dormant death penalty. We thought even the Citizens Association supported home rule now, but guess fellow Vichy members Bill Spaulding and Jerry Moore inspired them to fall back into old habits.

# LOOKING FOR MR. GOODSPACE

Eric Green



The time is 6:30 and the morning moon is just now nose-diving off the exit ramp of the Whitehurst Freeway.

Fifty familiar frozen faces are slumped over their steering wheels. Some of us have been waiting in our double-parked automobiles through half the night.

In the neighboring park, a wavy-haired man wearing an expensive jogger's suit slows down to avoid a head-on collision with a clump of dog-do. He trots next to an Opel—then cools out by a Maverick.

Engines roar to life, as if the green flag is about to drop for the Indianapolis 500. The shouting begins through cracks in car-windows.

"Hey, Joe, going somewhere?"

"Splitting, Pal?"

"Heading out, Buster? Come on. Hurry up."

I've seen these Fanne Foxes in sneakers before. He's out to tease us, build up our hopes, only to let us down. It's hardly likely he will surrender the most cherished prize in God's creation—a free, all-day parking space in the city of Washington.

"Sorry, boys, just passing through."

Some of us don't suffer disappointment gladly.

"Geezus, for Christ's sake, why didn't you say so, already?"

"Damn, you could have fooled me."

"I'll remember you, Buster. Every dog has his day."

A bulldog appears, spitting saliva. Where there's a dog, there's a human on the way. She's well-dressed, carrying an attache case and a practical snarl. We all start putting in our bids.

"Hey there, beautiful, save that one for me."

"Come on, marvelous, I'd do the same for you."

"Please, honey, you could make someone very happy."

The bulldog ponders the noise coming from the row of double-parked cars. Snarl-Face sniffs her nose and looks the other way.

The bulldog seems especially interested in a blue lift-back with Maryland plates, if the tilt of his head in that direction is any indication. Car motors spring to attention.

The dog starts to jog, definitely toward the lift-back. Fifteen cars keep pace with him. A

spit-fire can no longer control its emotions. It blasts up the street, dive-bombing in front of a more restrained Plymouth.

"Get your hind end back here!"

The wayward beast stops dead in his tracks. So do the other cars, except for the nervous spit-fire which is running out of control. To avoid the embarrassment, it accelerates up the block, screeching through a red light at the corner.

The sun is threatening to emerge from the Eastern horizon. Panic City can't be far behind. I'm going to be late for work—again. And the later it becomes, the more competition to beat for the precious few parking spots on this residential street. In a few minutes, wall-to-wall double-parked cars will be flashing their blinkers, as if they are starting a funeral procession.

I belong to a passive-aggressive group of double parkers known as the "Baby-Sitters." Newspapers are our trademark. We hide behind them while watching from a corner of the eye for any sign of a breakthrough.

There's another breed of illegal parkers known as the "Leftists." Actually, these people have a hard time sitting still for they are constantly making left-hand turns around the neighborhood in search of a spot. I used to be a Leftist until I found myself with an unaligned front end, not to mention a violent urge to lean to my left.

I still haven't had the guts to show off my ace-in-the-hole, my old Congressional license plate that reads "Member of Congress," with the word "89th" obliterated. I found the artifact in a garbage can, intending to display it on the dashboard in emergencies. But the trouble with this plan is that my car might wind up in a cage at the automobile pound.

A sad-faced man in a shabby trenchcoat hobbles around the corner. No need to bother with him, or so I think. He lights the stub of a cigar and waves it like a sparkler. What is this—another lunatic loose on the streets? Aha, I should have known—the old burning cigar trick. The old man leaps into a legally parked car. Within seconds, his co-conspirator has arrived to claim the impending opening.

My best hope is the Hornet parked next to me. A miniature Washington Redskins football helmet dangles from the rear-view mirror. The owner must picture himself as another Joe

Theismann. I review the sports section in the paper to find out when football practice begins. Theismann's got to be leaving for it soon. I lean back against the headrest. I might as well take a catnap while I wait.

I'm awakened by a banging on my window.

"Would you mind, buddy?" the man is yelling through the glass. "I'm in a big hurry."

Now I recognize him. It's the wavy-haired jogger, the one who was through here a few minutes ago. Not watching the pot boil has produced amazing results, for the jogger and my next car neighbor, Joe Theismann, are one in the same.

"Too bad, suckers," I celebrate, for the hours of waiting for a space are finally paying off. "I've found my place. Now find yours. Heh, heh."

"One second, sire," I say to Theismann, just before he opens his car door. For future parking reference, I want to establish his morning routine. "You always leave at this time in the morning?"

"In the morning? No, never."

"Oh, come on. You don't have to be coy with me."

"Coy?"

"Yeah. Do you leave at the same time every morning?"

"No, never. I only use my car at night."

"At night?"

"Yes, after 6:30."

"6:30?"

"That's right, 6:30 P.M. Eastern Standard Time."

"Exactly...Wait a minute, now I remember you. You were the idiot who was screaming at me to leave this morning."

"This morning?"

"Yeah, this morning. Hey, buster, maybe this is none of my business, but if I were you, I'd change that suit you're wearing. It looks like somebody's been sleeping in it all day."

